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Israeli official rejects Arafat charges

TEL AVIV (R) - Israel on Friday denied charges by Paletinian leader Yasser Arafat that it was spreading arms in the occupied Arab lands in hopes of creating chaos under Palestinian self-rule. "We unterly deny it," a government official, who spoke on condition he not be named, told Reuters. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Arafat accused Israeli troops of spreading arms in the occupied territories. "There is a very terrible trade of arms going on under the puspices of some Israeli olficers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip,"

Mr. Arafat said. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin. speaking on Israel radio, was more critical of Mr. Arafat's remarks. "I consider it a big mistake on his part and I hope it will not hinder the completion of the negotiations so that we may conclude the issues on the agenda with regard to Gaza and Jericho and proceed to implement the decisions taken," he said.



U.N. commission condemns Israel

GENEVA (API -- The U.N. Human Rights Commission on Friday reiterated its annual condemnation of Israel but welcomed the government's plans to give limited autonomy to the Palestinians. In a series of resolutions, the 53-nation commission demanded that Israel withdraw from Palestinian and Arab territories it occupied in the 1967. war. It criticised Israeli human rights abuses and tonure of detainees and called on Israel to allow all Palestinian deponees to return. The United States defended its ally and voted against the resolutions, while West European nations abstained. The Third World majority on the commission succeeded in pushing through the criticism. In one sign of encouragement for Israel, a motion sponsored by the United States and European nations welcoming the peace process passed by 48 votes to two. It expressed "its full support for the achievements of the peace process thus far, in particular the declaration of principles on interim self-government arrangements signed between Israel and the Palesti-nian Liberation Organisation and the agreement between Israel and Jordan on the common agenda."

Volume 18 Number 5542

AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1994, RAMADAN 9, 1414

Yemeni leaders arrive today to sign reconciliation accord

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Fighters prepare for new Afghan battles

KABUL (R) — Rival fighters in the war-battered Afghan capital Kabul used the last day of an uneasy four-day ceasefire on Friday to dig new trenches for renewed fighting while thousands of civilians fled the eity. Sporadic rocket exchanges erupted overnight and fighter jets of forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani bombed districts around the headquarters of his chief opponent Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar to the south of the city. Pakistani Foreign Minister Assef Ahmad Ali was travelling to the eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad for talks with Mr. Hekmatyar on bringing food supplies to he beleaguered Afghan capital and on ways to end the latest

UAE oil minister resigns

ABU DHABI (AP) - Oil minister Yousef Omeir bas resigned and the new acting minister will be Health Minister Ahmad Saeed Al Badi, Oil Ministry officials said Friday. The officials did not give the reason for the resignation of Mr. Omeir, who had held the oil portfolio since late 1990. Mr. Badi remains health minister and becomes acting minister of petroleum and mineral resources. Mr. Badi, a 33-year--old holder of a B.A. degree in international law, took his first cabinet post and was named minister of health in the e royal palace is le describinet formed in November 1990 by Prime Minister Sheikh Maktoum Ben Rashed Al Maktoum.

U.N. report censures Iran

GENEVA (AP) - Iran con-

tinned to rely heavily on a mix of executions, torture, repression and inomidation to enforce obedience to its Islamic revolutionary ideals, a U.N. report said Friday. The reports by special invesogator Reynaldo Galindo Pohl said despire international criticism, the high level of executions had apparently continued unchecked. In his report to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, the Salvadorean jurist said at least 35 people were executed between September and December last year. He said it was difficult to find an overall reliable figure as the Iranian press no longer reported regularly on the events. The government said in a written response included in the report that the death penalty was "rooted in divine principles." It said many of the executions were for drug traffickers and Iran was "doing the world a favour," by clamping down on narcones. The 61page report said there was persistent and widespread torture and ill-treatment, chiefly to force detainees to confess, make public statements of repentance, or inform on the organisations they belong to.

Attack on Turkish party office kills 1

ANKARA (AFP) — One person was killed and 11 wounded Friday when a bomb exploded in the building housing the pro-Kurd Democracy Party (DEP), the state-owned TRT television channel reported. quoting a city official. The powerful bomb, equipped with a delayed action mechanism. was placed in a lift but exploded one floor below the party offices, Radio Anatolia said. As well as the casualties, two of whom were seriously injured, it caused damage and started a fire. The homb attack, which was not immediately claimed, was the fourth against the DEP this month. The last, on Monday. cause no casualties. The DEP. which has 17 seats in parliament, supports the Kurdish struggle for autonomy which is being waged with heavyloss of life on both sides by the banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) against security forces in southeast Turkey, where the Kurds are in a majority.

Arafat were invited to attend. Bur there was no confirmation hy late Friday they would

attend. AMMAN — Yemeni Presi-Like King Hussein, both dens Ali Abdullah Saleh, Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh Sultan Qaboos and Mr. Arafat and a host of government leaders and politicians as well as were also involved in efforts to mediate the Yemeni crisis, sparked by differences bemediators arrive in Amman tween the leaders of North and today to sign a reconciliacion South Yemen which merged in and reform agreement to end a May 1990 to produce today's political crisis haunting their united Yemen. country sioce April last year.

After months of negooa-The signing ceremony, hosted by His Majesty King Hussein, will take place at the tions, a Yemeni committee of mediators drafted the accord thar will be signed tomorrow. Raghadan Palace tomorrow. Both the president and vice-Arriving in Amman to president have accepted it as a attend the event on Friday was blueprint for the future politicformer South Yemeni Presial and economic course for dent Ali Nasser Mohammad, their country.

Jordan has offered its armed forces officers to supervise the merger of the armies of the former North and South Ye-

According to Jordanian offi-cials and Yemeni and Arah Among non-Yemeni leaders attending tomorrow's cerediplomatic sources, Sultan mony are expected to be Arah Qaboos Ben Saed of Oman League Secretary-General and Palestinian Leader Yasser Esmat Abdul Meguid, who



Ali Abdullah Saleb

had offered the Arab League Secretariat in Cairo as the venue for the event, and a senior official of the European Union (EU).

Leaders of all Yemeni political parties, including Presi-dent Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) and Mr. Beidh's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) as well as the Al Islah Party, the third partner in the ruling coalition with GPC and



YSP, as well as independent Yemeni politicians are also

scheduled to arrive today. They include Al Islah's Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar, who is also speaker of the Yemeni parliament, Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, member of the Supreme State Council, Presidential Council member Salem Mohammad Salem, Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, Deputy Prime



Minister Mujahid Ahu Shawareb, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Alfi, and opposition Al Rabita party leader Abdul Rahman Al Jafri.

Also expected in Amman are former Yemeni presidents Abdul Rahman Iryani and Abdullah Salial.

Mr. Abu Shawareb, an independent Yemeni politician, paid a visit to Jordan Thursday to consult Jordanian officials on preparations for the signing ceremony. He returned home Thursday but is expected back

Salem Mohammad Salem, the Presidential Council member and a leader of Mr. Beidh's YSP, arrived Friday. In arrival comments as well as in an interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Salem emphasised his party's desire to ensure that the reconciliation and reform agreement succeed and contribute to Yemeni nationbuilding.

"The common factor thar bind the Yemeni people together are much stronger than the factors that tend to divide them," Mr. Salem said, reaffirming his party's commitment to living up to the provisions of the agreement.

The YSP official said the problems that plagued post-unity Yemen did not originate from personal differences between President Saleh and Vice-President Beidh, but were "inherited" from the days when the Yemeni naoon remained split into two for more than 300 years. He hlamed unideothfied "extremist ele-ments" for the spate of vio-leoce that endangered Yemeni

Mr. Salem paid tribute to King Hussein's mediation efforts and said Yemenis were glad that they were signing the agreement in Amman, which has set an example in democracy for the Arab World - an example, he said, is emulated by Yemen.

The reconciliation and reform agreement includes 18 points on which Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh have reached agree-

They call for increased powers to the prime minister and cabiner members and decentralisation of authority on the district level and basic changes in the country's economic poli-

Yemen, a country of 14 million people, have stuck oil. It bopes to reach a production capacity of 300,000 barrels per

Arafat: Israeli hesitation endangers peace process

WASSENAAR, Netherlands (Agencies) - Palestine Liberation Organisacion (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat warned Friday that Israeli besitation was endangering the

By a Jordan Times

Staff Reporter

who was ousted in a party coup

in 1988. Mr. Nasser Moham-

mad, who now lives in Damas-

cus, was active in trying to settle

the Yemeni crisis.

Middle East peace process.
"The Palestinians have taken major steps and courageous decisions. It is now up to the other side to prove that he is willing to achieve peace. Otherwise, the whole process will lose its credibility," Mr. Arafat told a news conference at this town

near the Hague. In response to a question, he said the PLO believed it should not take longer than one month to conclude a global agreement on Palestinian autonomy.

He recalled that the agreement signed by the PLO and Israel last year provided for the Israeli army to withdraw from Gaza and Jericho this coming

Last Saturday in Tunis, Mr. Arafat said he expected a final agreement with Israel to implement a statement of principles on Palestinian autonomy to be signed at the end of this

Israeli and Palestinian negotiarors are scheduled to meet in Cairo next week to try to settle

Israelis see

TEL AVIV (Agencies) -

The Dahaf Institute survey

for the Yediot Aharanot news-

paper was taken among 524

people after the ruling Labour

Party's General Secretary Nis-

sim Zvilli raised a storm last

week with a prediction that a

Palestinian state was inevit-

Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin stressed that govern-

ment policy was against a

sovereign Palestinian country

between Israel and Jordan,

although he has spoken of a

The opposition missed an

opportunity to emharrass the

government Wednesday when

it failed to mobilise a majority

for bills aimed at prevening

the government from agreeing

to a Palestinian state, despite

having the support of the Shas

The bill submitted by Uzi

Landau (Likud) was defeated

by a vote of 46 to 39; an almost

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinian "entity."

'Palestine

polities today.

outstanding issues. The last round of negotia-

tions, which ended Thorsday in Taha, were described by both sides as "serious" and "use-Mr.- Arafat said here Friday

that the Israelis had "promised (hlm) that in Ramadan, there will be a release for a part of the (Palestinian) prisoners ... which means that all prisoners will be released at the end of this period. He repeated that the Palesti-

nians "can't sign a final agreement without having a garan-tee for the release of all our prisoners." Palcstinians, using Red

Cross figures, estimated about 9,000 of their people are held prisoner. They want them re-leased before July 13, the date designated in the statement of principles for elections to be held in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Arafat, who arrived in the Netherlands on Thursday and was due to leave later Friday, held a surprise meeong early Friday with Nelson Mandela, head of the African Nacional Congress (ANC).

However, he refused to confirm a report that they had discussed a future visit by Mr.

TYRE (Agencies) - Israeli .

An official in Beirut, declin-

ing to be named, said Syria and

Lebanon had agreed to call on

anti-Israeli fighters to "cool

things down" in South Leba-

non, following Israeli threats

The decision was taken after

three hours of talks in Damas-

eus on Thursday between Sy-

rian President Hafez Al Assad

and Lebanese Prime Minister

Rafik Hariri, the offiical said.

launch a massive operation in

South Lebanon after a

Katyusha rocket fell on north-

em Israel on Wednesday, caus-

ing damage to a factory but no

On Firday, the warplanes

flew low-altitude missions over

Hizbollah positions north uf

Israel's self-declared "security

zone" and broke the sound

Guerrillas fired four

Karyushas at the zone over-

night, without causing casual-

ties, police said in the southern

barrier over Beirut.

Israel had threatened to

of reprisals.

injuries.

warplanes carried out mock

Israel in mock raids

after Katyusha attack

port of Tyre.

casualties.

The report was made by a Dutch committee for the support of the democraoc process in South Africa, which quoted ANC officials in Johannes-

burg, Mr. Arafat described himself and Mr. Mandela as "Friends and brothers" and said: "I will offer him an open invitation the moment I will arrive in Jericho."

Following the meeting, Mr. Arafat held talks with Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers. Foreign Minister Pieter Kooij mans and Deputy Economic Minister Responsible for Foreign Trade Yvonne Van Rooy on Dutch aid for building a port at Gaza as well as farming and tourism in Gaza.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel and the PLO may soon clinch a deal to launch self-rule in Gaza and

"We have moved forward this week in a very promising way, and if this continues there is a good chance the negotiaoons will end soon," Mr. Peres told Israel radio.

His remarks echoed those of PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath, who said Thursday that the four days of talks in

(Continued on page 3)

One rocket exploded just

The Katyusha caused only

slight damage when it crashed

inio a banana plantation on

Wednesday, near a factory hit

by another rocket the same

Neither rocket caused any

Concerned that violence

along the Israel-Lebanon bor-

der is spreading, Secretary of State Warren Christopher cal-

led Syrian Foreign Minister

Fatouk Sharaa to urge max-

imum restraint while Mideast

State Department spokes-

man Michael McCurry conde-mned the rocket attack Thurs-

day as an effort to disrupt the

peace process. He declined to

say whether Israel was being

asked not to retaliate, as it

Mr. McCurry, without going

into details, said Mr. Christ-

opher called Mr. Sharaa a few

hours after Wednesday's

attack in an effort to keep the

conflict from escalating.

customarily does.

peace efforts proceed.

Jawdet Shoul

Shoul tipped to succeed Badran in high council

By Nermeen Murad Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former Minister of Interior and lawyer Jawdat Sboul appears to be the foremost candidate to replace former Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who resigned from the Higher Council for the Interpretadon of the Constitudon last week, Parliamentary sources said Friday.

As was largely expected, for-mer Prime Minister Zeid Rifai was appointed by consensus last Tuesday to the influential council but his election drew a strong reaction from his political archrival Mr. Badrao, who submitted his resignation from the prestigious council in

protest. Mr. Rafai was elected to replace the late former prime minister, Bahjat Al Talhouni. in the nine-member panel composed of the speaker of the

litation of Mr. Rifai," boycotted that session and submitted his resignation from the coun-

"Mr. Shoul is the best choice among the lawyers in the Senate." one senator, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Jordan Times Friday. He explained that while former Deputy Prime Minister, Interior and Justice Minister Salem Massadeh would have been the most qualified "it was not expected that Mr. Massadeh would accept the

Before the appointment of Mr. Rifai last week, his nomination was opposed by a minority of the Senators who wanted the Upper House to choose between Mr. Massadeh and former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat.

The fact that Mr. Massadeh did not figure in the first choice and that Mr. Badran had chosen to express his dis-

Rabin hails Assad's offer to meet Israeli for first time

TEL AVIV (Agencies) --Prime Minister Yttzhak Rabin on Friday welcomed Syria's decision to allow the first visit ever to Damascus by a member of the Israeli parliament after 45 years of war.

Israeli-Arab Deputy Abdul Wabah Darawshe said the Syrian authorioes agreed Thursday to his request to lead a delegation from the Arab community here to present condolences to Fresident Hatez Al Assad on the death of his son Basel in a car accident last

"It's an important step forward, hopefully just a first one oo behalf of the Syrians," Mr. Rabin's spokesman Gad Ben Ari said. "It's the first ome that Assad has agreed to meet public with Israelis.

It will be the first time since Israel was founded in 1948 that an Israeli citizen will be welcomed in Syria. "We believe the decision

comes after criocism voiced here in Israel," Mr. Ben Ari Mr. Rabin had cited Syria's earlier refusal to grant Mr.

Darawshe entry as a sign of Mr. Assad's unwillingness to make peace with Israel. Mr. Darawshe, one of seven Israeli-Arab members of

Israel's 120-seat parliament, said the official purpose of the visit was limited to paying condolences to Mr. Assad. Nonetheless, Mr. Darawshe

did not rule out political talks if



Abdul Wahab Darawshe

Syria wished and said the visit could help improve the climate at a ome when concern is increasing in Israel about the guerrilla campaign waged by Syrian-backed groups in Leba-non against Israeli forces.

"It may project a better atmosphere, I believe, generally speaking, that the visit will have a positive impact on peace," Mr. Darawshe told the Associated Press.

Mr. Rabin's government, which has been seeking a channel to Syria's leadership outside the formal talks in Washington, encouraged the visit and Egypt interceded to help make arrangements.

The fact is that a human hridge is being made between Israel and Syria. We can't make light of that," said Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur, speaking on Israeli army radio, adding it was a marked change in Syria's

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres also welcomed the trip hut was more circumspect. He said on Israel Radio it was a "positive sigh... although it has its limitations, it isn't yet a burst of opportunity.'

Asked whether Israel was sending any messages to Mr. Assad, Mr. Peres replied that there were other channels for

Mr. Darawshe, who expects to leave in the next few days, called Mr. Rabin and got

approval to make the trip. He agreed to the visit, but did not ask me to carry any message," Mr. Darawshe said. adding the trip was important for Israel's 800,000 Arab citizens because it helped give

them a place in the Arab World. In Damascus, the government press on Friday accused Israel of doing everything in its power to sabotage the peace

"Making sure that the peace process fails has become the key, declared intention of Israel," charged the ruling par-

ty Al Baath newspaper. By raising tension in Lebanon, where Israel has threatened to retaliate if its northern border area is attacked, the Jewish state aims "not only to undermine the process, but to prepare for an explosion

Communities distance themselves from Faisal-Kreisha dispute

munities issued a joint statement this weekend distancing themselves from the dispute between deputies Toujan Faisal and Jamal Kreisha.

Ms. Faisal has accused Mr. Kreisha of insulting her Circassian community during an exchange Saturday. "Mr. Kreisha damned the

Circassian people and all those whose roots are in the Caucasus." she said. The statement by the com-

munities said the feud was a "parliamentary and not a tribal issue." The statement "diffused what could have become a serious community feud,' said one Lower House of Parliament deputy.

Mr. Kreisha, who has refused to confirm or deny Ms. Faisal's accusation that he cursed her ethnic group, told the Jordan Times, "I meant harm to no group of people or even Ms. Faisal as an individual.

"The situation was heated and things were said."

person and ethnic community. Mr. Fawaz Maher Burmamt. one of several Circassian community leaders in Jordan, visited Ms. Faisal the morning after the dispute which, according to Ms. Faisal, ended with Mr. Kreisha throwing an ashiray ai her.

meetings with senior members of Mr. Kreisha's central bedouin Bani Sakher tribe and representatives of the Circassian and Chechen communi-

Both the Cheehen and the Circassians are central Caucasus Muslim peoples who were settled in what was Transjordan during the last century by the Ottoman Turks who encouraged the groups' migraoon because of their farming skills. The Circassians and Chechens make up no less than 2.5 per cent of Jordan's total population.

The decision to issue a joint community statement was taken at a Feb. 17 meeting among Circassian, Chechen and Bani Sakher representa-

in the region," it said.

fives.
"We consider this a parliamentary dispute which should be dealt with through parliamentary norms. This is in no way a tribal matter," read the statement, which was signed by Mr. Kreisha's brother Sheikh Nayef Kreisha, Circassian community leader Burmamt and Lower House of Parliament Deputy and Chechen leader Sheikh Abdul Baqi Gammo.

The statement stressed the need for national unity as well as respect for pluralism, democracy and human rights,

However, not the entire Jordanian Circassian community is willing to distance itself from the Faisal-Kreisha dispute.

Another Circassian community leader, Mr. Mohammad Mamser, former vice-

Nearly two out of every three Israelis think that the Middle raids over resistance positions 100 metres from a post of East peace process will lead to Senate, five senior judges and Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. Police on Friday after Katyusha rockthe creation of a Palestinian state, according to an opinion pull published Friday. three senarors. ets crashed into Israel's "secur-Mr. Rifai, after the approval said SLA gunners fired 20 ity zone" in South Lebanon, By Mariam M. Shahin Part of a JD 1 million "slanof his nomination Tuesday, police said. shells in retaliation. Sixty-four per cent saw a der, libel and assault" lawsuit was to join Mr. Badran and Jordan Times Staff Reporter The latest tension came The remains of a second Palestinian stare coming, 30 planned by Ms. Fasial against Senator Abmad Tarawneh. AMMAN - Tribal repreper cent did not and six per. amid intense diplomacy to Katyusha were found in the Mr. Kreisha is based on her sentatives of the Bani Sakher. But Mr. Badran apparently in Galilee region on Friday, militavert a new outburst of fighting cent had no view on one of charge that he insulted her a protest against "the rea. "i-Circassian, and Chechen combetween the Iranian-backed ary officials said. the hottest issues in Israeli Hizbollah and Israeli forces.

cil, sources said..

nomination."

(Continued on page 3)

Mr. Burmamt held several

president of the University of Muja', is reportedly following the situation up with Ms. Faisal and, "intends to stand by her side" if her lawsuit against Mr. Kreisha ever goes to court, sources close to Ms. Faisal

Both sides 'determined' to make progress on Cyprus — Clark

cial envoy Joe Clark said Friday that both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders were "determined to make progress on a package of confidencebuilding measures for their divided island."

But a fire at a mosque on the Greek side of Nicosia - treated as arson by police served as a reminder that there is opposition to the U.N. pack-

"We have observed there is determination on both sides. There are still a few areas in which both parties need of come closer." Mr. Clark said after a second round of talks with Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash.

On these issues, there will be consultations with the contribution of the ambassadors of the five permanent members" of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, China, France. Russia and the United States. Mr. Denktash told reporters

that the main issues were the timetables for the reopening of Nicosia airport and the coastal resort of Varosha, as well as "the status of the U.N. administration" of both sides.

Both sides have accepted in principle the confidencebuilding measures (CBMs) aimed at breaking the 20-year deadlock on Cyprus.

Nicosia airport, closed since 1974, would be reopened under U.N. supervision and Varosha, a Greek suburb of the coastal town of Famagusta under Turkish control, would be transferred to U.N. administration for the Greeks to

After the first day of Mr. Clark's shuttle mission between Mr. Denktash and President Glafkos Clerides, a Greek-Cypriot. the Cyprus Mail newspaper said: "So far, so good. Goodwill all round." Mr. Denktash warned Thursday that a breakthrough was not imminent. "We are all working with goodwill and sincerity for a good result. So give us time." said the veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader.

At the medieval Bayraktar Mosque, a fire late Thursday damaged a wooden staircase and the ceiling, police said. The fire brigade was sent to the disused mosque by the capital's venetian walls after an anonymous telephone call.

"It must have been done to stop this exercise from getting on," said Mr. Denktash, who was to travel to Ankara on Monday for a three-day working visit to discuss the CBMs. If there is going to be a balanced agreement suitable for both sides, this sort of thing

Mr. Clark, whose mission ends Saturday when he flies to New York to brief on Secretary General Boutros Ghali, has said all key issues were being oegotiated and maps were on the table.

cannot stop it."



FIIGHT: Thousands of civilians, like this family hauling a cartload of belongings along one of Kabul's streets, took advantage of a four-day ceasefire to escape areas of fighting between rival

factions in the Afghan capital. Reports indicated Friday the factions were bracing for a new bout of battles (AFP photo)

Algerian exiles arranged

ALGIERS (AP) - Exiled nised an arms shipment seized ahoard an Algerian freighter bound from Germany, local news media reported.

The weapons were apparently hound for Islamic insurgents whose two-year campaign to overthrow the military-backed government has claimed 3.000

Algerian newspapers reported that members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and other fundamentalists, living for the most part in Germany, arranged the arms

It marked the first time that a shipment of weapons from Europe bound for the insurgents has been seized and publicly reported.

Authorities found 20 hunting rifles, 15 pistols, telecommunications equipment and binoculars on board the ship. the media reported Wednes-**Feuding Iraqi Kurds**

ANKARA (R) - An Iraqi

Kurdish guerrilla faction has

signed a peace pact with its

Muslim militant rivals several

weeks after clashes which kil-

The Patriotic Union of Kur-

distan (PUK) and the Islamic

Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan

(IMK) signed the accord

Thursday at the headquarters

of the opposition Iraqi Nation-

al Congress (INC) in the north-

ern Iraqi town of Salahuddin.

PUK forces led by Jalal

Talabani launched an all-out

assault on the Islamic militants

in December after months of

friction and minor clashes.

They overran most of the

IMK's party offices and cap-

tured its leader. Sheikh Oth-

Kurdish sources say at least

200 people were killed, some

in cold blood, in the bitter

fighting which engulfed many

of the eastern parts of northern

Under pressure from its

main partner in the Iraqi Kur-

dish regional government, the

Kurdistan Democratic Party

(KDP). the PUK handed

Sheikh Othman over 10 KDP

The peace pact was signed

by Barzani. INC President

leader Massoud Barzani.

the INC said.

man Abdul Aziz.

Iraq in December.

led at least 200 people.

To

48 (\$

, III o

sign peace agreement

arms shipment — reports | Maghreb day. The Algerian captain was

The seizure is certain to bolster government demands for European countries to crack down on exiled fundamentalists, whom it claims are running a terrorist support

Germany recently warned Rabah Kebir, the leading exiled FIS spokesman, to stop making statements that appeared to support terrorism. France has charged three fun-damentalists with terrorism

According to Algerian press reports, citing security sources. the ship left Hamburg and stopped in the Belgian port of Anvers before going on to

There was no word on when it arrived in the Algerian capital or when the seizure was made. The government has not

Ahmad Chalabi and Fleih

Samara'ey, head of a Saudi-

based Iraqi delegation, as well

as Mr. Talabani and Sheikh

The agreement calls for an

end to fighting, respect for the

authority of the regional gov-

ernment and parliament. sup-

port for democracy, the release

of prisoners and the participa-

tion of the IMK in the regional

government, which is to start

democracy.

Libya lashes

Union for failing to help end the international boycott against Libya over the Pan Am

Libyan Television, in a statement Thursday, the fifth anniversary of the formation of the economic cooperation union, said the union has

tion. the treaty of this union has remained mere ink on paper... because it has not served the Arab people in this region." the television said. union was incapable of holding a meeting and was unable to lift an unfair embargo imposed

The broadcast was moni-tored by the BBC in London. The union links Libva, Tunisia. Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania in-cooperation agreements as a step towards

comprehensive Arab unity. But bureaucratic tangles and regional rivalries have kept it from becoming a viable network. The criticism came a day after a televised statement by

Qadhafi saying the two Libyans wanted in the Pan Am 103 case can be rried in the United States or Britain but only by a Muslim court. Should there be a court like

this." Colonel Oadhafi said on Libyan Television. "We will not mind if they are given capital punishment.

subsidising the IMK as it does other parties in Iraqi Kurdis-The INC. in a report published by its publicity arm. the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, said the accord marked the first time the fundamental-

ist IMK had committed itself to Kurdish sources in Ankara said the IMK would not be allowed to reestablish its armed militia, but would be able to post lightly armed guards at its reopened offices.

The Iranian-based Shiite Muslim opposition group funds. known as the Supreme Court for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq. Turkey's Muslim-based Welfare Party, the Saudi-based delegation, the KDP and INC had helped in mediation efforts, the sources said.

union

CAIRO (AP) — Libya has lashed out at the Arab Magreb

achieved nothing.
"Five years after its crea-

Suffice it to say that this on a member state."

Libya Leader Moammar

The Libvan suspects, alleged to be agents of Col. Oadhafi's intelligence services, are accused of planting a bomb aboard a Pan Am jet in December 1988 that sent it crashing into Lockerbie. Scot-

land, killing 270 people. To force Libva to surrender the men to the United States or Britain. the United Nations imposed air, arms and diplomatic sanctions in April 1992. They were tightened last December to include an embargo on most oil equipment and a freeze on overseas

Col. Oadhafi has adamantly refused to surrender the men to the United States or Britain. His offers of an international trial or trial in a neutral country have satisfied neither the Americans nor the British.

Kurtzer: Multilaterals embark on new phase gional parties, the multilateral WASHINGTON (USIA) -

The multilateral negotiating track of the Middle East peace process has moved into a new phase aimed at demonstrating to the peoples of the region that peace can have immediate benefits, according to a senior U.S. official.

Daniel Kurtzer, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, who led the United States delegation to last week's meeting of the multilateral steering group in Ottawa, outlined the action, programme Feb. 16 at a State Department news briefing. While direct bilateral nego-

tiations involving Israel. Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians are dealing with the core issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict - territory. peace and security - a complementary set of multilateral negotiations has been underway since early 1992 to address broader regional issues, Mr. Kurtzer explained.

After an initial period of what he called familiarisation" and "educating the parties as to the depth and scope of the problems which they had agreed to address," Mr. Kurtzer said that as many as 13 Arab representatives joined with Israel and a number of parties from outside the region to address problems in five areas - regional economic development, refugees, arms control and regional security. the environmenr, and water resources.

During the last round of working group meetings, in October and November of lass year, "several of the working groups actually formulated andbegan implementing concrete projects." Mr. Kurtzer said. Among these were a rainwater catchment project in Gaza, a mutual declaration on arms control and regional security. and other actions on environmental issues, wastewater. treatment, and desertification.

"In other words, each of the groups began 10 focus on one or two specific projects that could be seen by peoples in the region as... potential fruits of peace... at a time when the core issues of the conflict were also being addressed." he said. Last week's extraordinary session of the multilateral steering group in Ottawa decided on three issues designed to give even more impetus to this pro-

- At the urging of the re-

steering group "will now take a much more active role in trying to increase the pace and the scope of the work of the working groups," Mr. Kurtzer said.

- Since there is a great deal of optimism that agreements will be signed and implemented between Israel and the Arabs over the next several years, the multilateral steering group decided to formulate guidelines that will help create an environment conducive 10 the implementation of agreements reached in the bilateral

 The steering group "has given urgency to the formulation of a set of regional developmental priorities," much like those undertaken 18 months ago with regard to the West Bank and Gaza, "We've decided to do the same thing now on a region-wide basis in order to stimulate economic development and more concrete projects on the part of the working groups," he said.

While conveying "a sense of movement on the part of the multilateral process," Mr. imply that the multilateral process was outstripping the pace of the bilateral peace negotia-

"The bilateral negotiations remain at the core of resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute," he pointed out, noting that all the parties in the Middle East "insist that the core issues of this conflict be addressed before a more normal relationship develops among them.

But as that relationship develops as a result of successes in the bilaterals, I think the multilaterals have now begun to move further and faster to begin addressing some of these concrete problems and again to create an environment in which implementation of agreements will make much more sense," he said.

Mr. Kurtzer acknowledged there have been problems. Since the beginning. Syria and Lebanon have chosen not to participate in the multilateral track of the peace process because they are concerned that track may get ahead of the bilateral peace negotiations.

The United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the peace process, have kept the Syrian and Lebanese governments very closely informed of what we're doing in the multilater-

als" over the past two years "and we have used every opportunity to try to encourage their participation," he said.

The continuing absence of Syria and Lebanon is "an inhibiting factor in trying to develop broad-scale regional planning." he said. "What we're trying to do is 10 make it attractive to Syria and Lebanon to participate where they see their own interests

While the refugee issue "is perhaps one of the most sensitive political issues in the entire process, "he said, the refugee working group has developed an agenda with seven action items on it, "one of which is called family reunification which all sides recognise is a means of beginning to address the aspirations of some Palestinians to return to homes that they may have left for whatever reasons.

The United States, which is shepherding the issue of training in both the refugee group and the economic development group, has already conducted a number of training missions for refugees, he said. "We're also trying to... make these selfsustaining programmes.

So far the working group has put off trying to agree on the numbers of refugees to be involved, he said, but has agreed to divide them into three groups — refugees from 1947. 49, displaced persons or refugees from 1967, and those who have been displaced from their homes for other reasons as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The working group's definition of a refugee is "anybody displaced as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Mr. Kurtzer said. thus avoiding defining "some of the issues which only the parties, in their final status negotiations." will have to address. The working group has also decided that issues relating to repatriation are more appropriately going tu be handled in the discussions on final status, he said.

The fact that the heads of delegations of the direct bilateral negotiations met in Washington a couple of weeks ago and then resumed their negotiations Feh. 15 "is a restament to the commitment of Syria and the other parties to cuntinue this process." Mr. Kurtzer stressed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three Qatarl fighters killed in Bosnia

DOHA (AFP) - Three Qatari volunteers have been killed fighting alongside the Bosnian Muslims against the Serbs, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced here Thursday. The ministry, quoted by the official ONA news agency, said the three — Ahmad Al Abdullah, Abdul Aziz Mohannedi and Saad Ali — were buried as "martyrs" in Bosnia. A spokesman gave neither a place nor a date for their death, nor specified if other Qatari fighters were in the former Yugoslavia. Volunteers from Muslim countries have often been sighted on the battlefield in the ranks of the Muslim-led Bosnian governments army, but it is unusual for Arab countries to confirm their

Kurdish deputies may face prosecution

ANKARA (AP) — A parliamentary commission on Thursday paved the way for parliament to allow prosecution of three-Kurdish deputies accused of having ties with a separatist Kurdish guerrilla organisation. Serif Ercan, the head of the joint constitutional and judiciary commission, announced after a meeting that the commission decided to lift the parliamentary immunity of Leyla Zana, Orban Dogan and Mahmut Alinak. The decision will be final if the 450-seat parliament approves it. When the vote might come was not known. The deputies are accused of advocating Kurdish separatism. Mr. Dogan also faces charges of providing shelter to Kurdish guerrillas in his parliamentary residence. The Kurdish guerrilla organisation, PKK, has been fighting for an autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984. There is a growing concern in the country about what will happen with local elections March 27 in the southeastern region. The Kurdish Democracy Party, DEP, which is believed to have close ties with the PKK, threatens to protest the elections if numbers of their candidates, jailed recently, are not allowed to run. Similarly a trial of the Kurdish deputies could escalate tensions in the region.

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Qadhafi puts Libya under Islamic law

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libya introduced Islamic law on Thursday and said it would also switch to an Islamic "solar" calender unique in the Muslim World. The new legislation will work on eye for-an-eye" principle in cases of premeditated murder. Thieves will have their bands cut off and men and women caught committing adultery will be flogged. Drinking, making or possessing alcohol is banned and offenders will be fined and imprisoned. Alcohol consumption is already prohibited but the law was not always applied with rigour. Polygamy was legal in Libya but from now on a husband will have to get permission in court from his first wife if he wishes to take another wife. Libya has also decided to adopt a solar calendar starting from the birth of the Prophet Mohammad in 571. This would put the country in the year 1423. The rest of the Muslim World uses a lunar calendar beginning in 622 the year of the Hijira when the Prophet fled Mecca to Medina to escape persecution. It is 1414 in other Muslim countries. For the first time since Colonel Mummar Qadhafi came to power in 1969. Islamic preachers or imams will be permitted to issue "fatwas" or religious decrees. When Col. Qadhafi seized power he abolished the post of mufti, the country's highest religious authority. In recent months Col. Qadhafi has called for stricter application of Islamic law while at the same time being fiercely critical of Islamic fundamentalist activists in the Arab World.

BBC correspondent ordered out of Tunisia

LONDON (AFP) The BBC World Service has protested against the expulsion from Tunisia of its resident correspondent in Tunis, saying it would review its coverage of Tunisia and northern Africa, as a result. The BBC said the press accreditation of correspondent Alfred Hermida had been withdrawn, and he had been ordered to leave Tunisia by Friday. "The Tunisian authorities have given no reason for Mr. Hermida's expulsion; in spite of requests from the BBC," said World Service News Editor Bob Jobbins. "The BBC has total confidence in him. He is a highly professional correspondent who has shown great energy and commitment in his reporting of North Africa."

UAE in drive to protect fish

ABU DHABI (AFP) - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is taking measures to protect its fish as part of a campaign to repair ecological damage caused by oil spills and fishing abuses. Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Said Al Ragbani outlined measures to streamline the fishing sector, at a meeting earlier this week of the federal national council, the appointed parliament. Mr. Ragbani was questioned about the ministry's plans to end abuses by fishermen. "We are drafting a federal law on the exploitation, development and protection of the fish wealth in the UAE, he said. "We have presented the law to the authorities concerned to seek their opinioo." Mr. Ragbani gave no details of the draft law but most of the UAE's seven emirates already ban fishing nets that kill small fish or damage the sea bed and mangroves. Catching turtles is also strictly banned in all the emirates.

Russian officer killed near Afghan border

DUSHANBE (AFP) - A Russian officer with the frontier guard stationed in Tajikistan was found dead near the border with Afghanistan on Friday, the head of the Russian border guards said here. The officer had set out the previous day from Pyandzh with three members of the Tajik security forces, but there was no sign of them when the officer's body and car were located, the sources said. The Tajik security ministry for its part reported that four members of its security forces were killed and three wounded in an overnight ambush in the same region by 15 unidentified armed men. Armed Islamic groups opposed to the neo-communist regime here mount raids across the border from Afghanistan.

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGI	KAMME TWO
17:38	Les Adventuriers De L'Espace
17:41 .	L'Ecole Des Fans
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	News in French
	Ushuaia
	News in Hebrew
20-00	News in Arabic
20.20	The End Of A Brave Man
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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweilleh Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church. Tel
632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 6245911.
Church of the Annunciation Tel 637441.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancia Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel 623541.

Anglican Church Tcl. 630851. Tcl. 628543. 771331. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amusas International Church T American 652526. Evangelical Latheran Church Tet: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel. 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tcl. x23x24, 654932 Church of Nazarese Tcl.675691. The Evangelical Local Church in Am-Tel. 811295

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:	
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh	827195
Dr. Bassam Karadshch	
Dr. Yahya Abdul Şalam	
Dr. Yousef Al Fagih	756088
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	77x336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	673677
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacouh pharmacy	614945
Shmcisani pharmacy	637660
Najih pharmacy	847637
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IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Omari	777037
Al Quds Pharmacy	(_)
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Dr. Tareq Hijjawi	985115
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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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Jahal Amman Maternity 642362
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Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital 1091 990990

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nalees Hospital 102)247100 rincess Haya Hospital (03|3|4||| FOR THE TRAVELLER

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INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oween Alia Interna Airport Tel. (08):53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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85:50	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
09-25	New Delhi (RJ)
07.25	Aqaba (RJ)
07:59	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:00	Beirut (RJ)
0:2	Colombo (RJ)
15:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
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Other Flights (Terminal 2)

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Tomato	270/ 200
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RAMADAN FRIDAY PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein attends the second Friday San and Mahmui prayers of Ramadan at Aishah Umm Al Moumi-sen Mosque. Friday's sermon was delivered by Helavel. Ministry of Awaya secretary as not known. The Ahmad Helayel, Ministry of Awgaf secretary general. In his sermon, Dr. Helayyel noted King Hussein's efforts to achieve Arab solidarity. He landed the King for his efforts to bring about a reconciliation and accord between the Yemeni leaders and wished him every success in his

endeavours to accomplish this task. Attending the prayers with King Hussein were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohamamd, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majall, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, senior Royal Court officials and senior civil and military officials (Petra photo).

Queen visits SOS Boys Youth House

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Thursday visited the SOS Boys Youth House in Wadi Seer, which was established in 1993 as an extension of the SOS Villages

in Jordan. The youth house accommodates young adult men of the SOS Villages and attempts to confinue to provide a caring family environment.

The project also aims to promote self-reliance and to much the youth healthy and responsible habits and values

as members of the community. The youth house currently provides accommodation and meals for youths between the ages of 13 and 17, who attend a local shool and vocational training centre.

The boys also visit their families in the SOS Villages on weekends.

Oucen Noor, the founder of the Boys Youth House and a member of the General Assembly of SOS-Kinderdorf International, toured the home

with the boys, and discussed with the members ways to improve and upgrade the existing faciliries.

The Youth House is a semiautonomous project operating under the umbrella of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

The Oueen was received by the director of the SOS Villages, the deputy president and members of the SOS Village administrative committee.

Accompanying Queen Noor on Thursday's visit was Mrs. Noor Izzedine.

Jordan, PLO seek coordinated stand on Palestinian refugees, displaced persons

Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are seeking to coordinate their positions on negotiations with Israel on the fate of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons and then to bring in Egypt before actually opening quartipartite talks on the issue,

officials said Friday. The decision to hold prior coordination among the Arab sides to a four-party (Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyprian-Israeli) committee, which is proposed in the Sept. 13 autonomy agree-ment between Israel and the PLO, was taken during last week's Jordan-PLO meetings, the officials said.

A sub-committee on refugees and displaced persons met on the sidelines of meetings of the Higher Jordao-PLO Joint Committee attended by Deputy Prime Minister Saeed Al Tal and PLO foreign affairs chief

Minister of State Adel Irsheid and PLO Executive Committee member Samir Ghosheh (Popular Struggle Front) chaired the subcommittee meetings, which submitted its recommendations to the higher commit-

tee, the official said. The Jordanian stand during the meeting was that prior coordination was a must cerned before launching the proposed four-party committee and this was accepted by the PLO side, they said.

Jordan bas been refusing to entertain the idea of the fourparty committee, which was sprung as a surprise to the Kingdom along with the secret autonomy accord negoriated by Israel and the PLO.

Information Minister Jawad Anani said: "We believe in the conceptual approach to the issue; coordination between ourselves (Jordan and the PLO) first and then with Egypt before proceeding further.

Dr. Anani said no date had been set for the first meeting of the proposed four-party committee. Reports from Cairo and Tunis said it could take place in April.

&But Dr. Anani indicated that the meeting would not take place unril Jordan is satisfied that the Kingdom, the PLO and Egypt have coordinated their positions and are able to present a common stand to present in this context.

The Jordan-PLO coordination is expected to be consolidated during a meeong next week of the joint subcommittee before the two sides approach Egypt, said Omar Khatib, the deputy chief of mission at the Palestinian embassy here.

"The decision of the subcommittee was clear, Any negotiations with Israel over the fate of Palesonian refugees and displaced persons should be based on related U.N. resolutions regardless of any other considerations, Mr. Khatib told the Jordan

U.N. Resolution 194 upholds the right of the Palestinian refugees of 1948 to return home or receive compensation. Resolutions issued since then uphold the same principle and call for an equitable solution to the problem of refugees.

Mr. Khatib said Jordan and the PLO were awaiting the outcome of the ongoing Israel-PLO negotiations in the Egyprian Red Sea resort of Taba before formulating further steps. He indicated that the Taba talks could produce a clear Israeli stand on how the Jewish state intended ot handle the issue of displaced Palestinians.

"We have to have a very clear perception of our own positions and options before we sit down with Israel (in the four-party committee); that is what Jordan and the PLO are trying to achieve," said Mr. Khaob.

During last week's talks. Jordan agreed to conduct a census of displaced Palestinians living in the Kingdom for documentarion purposes and eventually to find out how many of them would like to return to the West Bank

On Feb. 1, Egypt launched a similar survey of Palestinians from Gaza living in Arab countries after starting a census in its own teritory. It plans to close the enumeration on April 15.

Response to the Egyptian census in Jordan has been very slow, diplomatic sources

Palestinian "refugees" are classified as those who fled or were forced to flee their homes in Palestine when the state of Israel was created in 1948. Many of them ended up in refugee camps in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank only to be turned out again and forced across the Jordan River in the 1967 war.

They were joined by many natives of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the flight; and these are classified as "displaced persons" - meaning that they were displaced from their homes, not refugee camps, in the occupied territories.

According to PLO statistics, the number of Palestinains "displaced" from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip during the 1967 war and their dependents now stands at 675,000. "The majority of them are

living in Jordan, and the rest are in Egypt," said Mr. Khaob. "Very few of them are in Syria or elsewhere,

The Sept. 13 autonomy accord puts off any Israel-

PLO discussion of the "refur :es" until the "final statu negotiations slated to be in the third year of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories.

But the issue of refugees and displaced persons is a prominent item on the agenda signed on Sept. 14 for peace negotiations between lordan and Israel, thus making the Kingdom the only Arab party dealing with the subject unoil the final status negotiations.

Jordanian officials say it was a significant achievement for Jordan that it managed to include the issue as a topic for bilateral negotiations. They say that Jordan's approach to the issue with Israel is on a state-to-state level with no prejudice of the righ; of the refugees to return home or receive compensation.

Jordan is demanding compensation for having hosted Palestinian refugee, on its soil. It points out hat the refugee problem was a result of the creation of the state of ا sraei عمل as such Israel has a direct responsibility to address its consequences.

Israel has ruled out the return of any massive number of Palestinians, but has agreed to consider allowing an unspecified but limited number to return, and both Jerdanian and PLO officials say they expect the issue to be one of the most thorny in negonations.

GUVS donates JD 30,000 to national charity campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, honorary chairperson of the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF) Board of Trustees, Thursday received a cheque for JD 30,000 as a contribution to the national charity eampaign by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

GUVS Executive President Abdullah Khatib presented the theque to the Princess at a meeting with other GUVS board members.

The Princess, who has been louring different governorates to inspect the progress of the

King receives cable

progress and prosperity.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein

fiday received a cable from Mauritanian Presi-

dent Moawiyah Weld Sid Ahmad Al Taye',

congratulating him on the advent of the holy

month of Ramadan. President Weld Sid Ahmad

wished the King continued good health and

happiness and the Jordanian people further

public safety will be held under the patronage of

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

Wednesday, Feb. 23. The conference was origi-

Panel prepares for Day Health

AMMAN (Petra) — A special multi-sectoral

committee in charge of preparations for World

Healthy Day on Apr. 7 met Thursday. Commit-tee sources said Jordan's celebrations this year

will be held under the theme of "Preventing

Dental Diseases." The major celebration will be

held at the Teacher's Club. The events include

lectures, exhibitions, printed information dis-

tributions and poster displays. The activities also

chide a sports march, which will start from the

Haya Cultural Centre and end at the Orhtodox

lab. The committee includes representatives of

the ministries of Health and Education, the

ordan Dental Association, Jordan University of

Science and Technology, Noor Al Hussein

Foundation, the Royal Medical Services and the

('nally due to be held today (Saturday).

charity drive, carried out mainly by youth and scouts and guides, voiced appreciation to GUVS, describing the donation as another step that would further contribute to belping

needy families in Jordan. Princess Basma said that the donations collected during the holy month of Ramadan would be offered as direct assistance to poor families or as financing for income-generating projects.

A GUVS statement Thursday said the union contributes nearly JD 300,000 annually to projects aimed at promoting the status of Jordanian chil-

NEWS IN BRIEF

dren's books and contributes towards establishing children's

Acting in cooperation with world organisations, GUVS is concerned with the care of pre-school children and provides furniture, toys and other necessary equipment to kindergartens and trains teachers specifically in child care. The union also supplies kindergartens and nurseries with chil-

libraries, said the statement. In addition, the statement said, each year GUVS allocates funds for providing food and clothes to school children in remote areas of the country.

JSCEP to hold awareness event

AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordanian Society for

the Control of Environmental Pollution

(JSCEP), in cooperation with Friedrich

Naumann Foundation and the education depart-

ments in Jerash and Ailoun districts, will launch a

series of environmental awareness campaigns and

programmes, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 22. As

part of the programmes a two-day mobile en-

programme is designed to promote awareness

about the society's role in preventing environ-

mental pollution and mobilising local communi-

ties to contribute to local efforts to prevent

pledged a contribution of JD 50,000 to the

charity campaign, initiated by Her Royal High-

ness Princess Basma. The contribution was

announced by Amman Chamber of Industry's

President Khaldoun Abu Hassan following a

meeting with Princess Basma to discuss the role

of the industrial sector in supporting the cata-

paign, which has become a yearly function carried out during Ramadan. Attending the

meeting were representatives of the various

industrial activities, including the Amman In-

dustrial Estates Corporation Director General

environmental degradation.

Brother kills 2 sisters for 'immoral behaviour'

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two women wete shot and killed by their brother on Thursday, a few hours after they were teleased from prison aftet serving a term fot what the suspected slayer described to police as "immoral be-

The women, identified as Amneb A., 27, and Khawla, 33, were shot and killed by their brother Hussein, A., wbo surrendered to police shortly after the killing, said a police

The man confesssed to the murders, said the official. He told police that bis sisters were detained more than one year ago for "immoral" behaviour and were released Thursday, according to the police official, who preferred anonymity.

The police official said the two were arrested after the brother himself had complained that they were living with someone who was not a family member of reladve.

After their release, the brother told police, he took the and advised them to live with him with their two other sisters. He also advised them to "change their bebaviour." Then, he told police, he left home but only to discovet the two women leaving bome against his advice.

According to his testimony to police, he prevented them from leaving and an argumeot ensued. "When the argumeot reached a deadlock, be said, be went inside the house, brought out a gun and empoed it on his sisters," according to the police official.

The other two sisters wbo were in the house rushed out upon bearing the shots and found the two women lying in pools of blood, police reported. The elder woman died io-

stantly while the othet was rushed to Zaroa military hospital where she was pronounced dead four hours after A hospital official told the

Jordan Times that the both bodies had at least four bullet The bodies were transerred

to Al Bashir hospital for autopsy. The man was detained in Zarqa pending investigations

UNRWA employees in Jordan get a raise, but it is 'below expectations'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The United Na-tions Relief and Works Ageocy (UNRWA) agreed to grant its employees in Jordan a salary raise of between four to 13 per cent, but agency workers say that the raise, frozeo for the past four years, was much below expectations.

The salary taise, announced during the visit to Jordan of UNRWA Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen, is to be issued retroactively as of January 1, 1994.

The raise, explained one agency employee, will be applied according to a new scale, starting with 13 per cent for the lowest salaries and decreasing to four per cent to the higher salaries.

The majority of agency workers, said the employee, fall in the six to seven per cent margio, which means they will receive a raise of around JD30

"But since the agency adopted austerity measures

four years ago and it froze our . raises and other working consalary increases now we were : ditions were the cause of manexpecting a minimum raise benot to be identified.

The agency workers were also disgruntled with the fact that employees at the UN-RWA headquarters in Vienna are getting a 16 per cent increase retroactively as of April

"We feet discriminated against," said one employee, adding that the agency no longer has an exeuse for the meager raise "since it is now receiving money from donor countries and was given the priority to spend it in Jordan."

UNRWA employees had also requested a similar raise to that given by the Jordanian government to civil servants (JD15) to cover the rise in the cost of living.

The raise for employees was also recommended by a United Naoons committee which visited Jordan in 1993 and conducted a study of the living conditions here. Complaints over salary

agerial differences between the tween 20 to 25 per cent, said waters and their manage-Last December, tepresenta-

tives of employee committees staged a sit-in at the UNRWA headquarters in Amman. Minister of State Adel Irsheid took up the issue with Mr. Turkmen and the stage-in was suspended.

During his four-day visit to Jordan, Mr. Turkmen met with foreign ministet Talal Al Hassan and Mr. Irsheid, as well as . : . other government officials, and reviewed the agency's services to Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

Mr. Turkmen told Petra news agency that UNRWA was planning to move several departments from its Vienna headquarters to Amman later this summer "to be closer to its field of operation in the Middle

East region."
UNRWA extends its services to Palestinian refugees in Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza, Lebanon and Syria.

Public safety conference postvironmental exhibition will be held in Ajloun Tuesday and in Jerash on March 1. The exhibitwo women to the family home tion will later travel to Deir Abi Said, where it in Wadi Hajar area of Zarqa AMMAN (Petra) - A national conference on will be held for a few days starting March 21. The

Industries contribute to charlty The following listings are compiled from monthly bulleons and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed AMMAN (Petra) - The industrial sector Friday

ome and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of medical berbs at the Royal Cultural Centre. Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).

★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.

Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tel. 720902). |☆ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the

Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

Trams in Arabic entitled "Hamlet Crucified Again" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

BOOK EXHIBITION

LECTURE

Arafat: Israel undermines process (Continued from page 1) He said entry visas would be

Taba were "a success" and the two sides "hope to be able to finalise the overall agreement soon.

On the Palestinian police

force, Dr. Shaath and his Israel couoterpart General Ammon Shahak said agreement had been sealed on coordination with the Israeli army after the launch of self-rule. Sources close to the negooators said they were soll at

odds over the size of the police

force and its arms. The Paleso-

nians want a 10,000-strong

force, while Israel has proposed 6,000. Mr. Peres said such differences "should not prove to be insurmountable."

Mr. Peres told Parliament on Wednesday Israel will keep a precise record of every nonresident entering and leaving the Palestinian autonomous areas, and will therefore be able to know who has remained in the area illegally.

Mr. Peres was replying to a Yehoshua query by Yehoshua Matza, who expressed concern that the border crossing arrangements established in the Cairo accord would enable Palestinians living abroad to exercise their right of return and move into the territories without Israel knowing about

Israel has the right of veto over any non-resident seeking to enter the autonomous areas and was not obliged to justify its decision to the Palestinian authorities, Mr. Peres ex-

granted for three months, with the right to extend them for another three months. The Palestinian authorities were responsible for seeing to it that the visitors left; however, Israeli officials would keep records of all visitors entering and leaving the territories, and would therefore know how many people had not left when their time was up. The Palesti-

for another three months. "We have enough ways of checking whether the Palestinian authority is supervising the stay of visitors and enough sanctions to impose if they don't" said Mr. Peres.

mans would have to tell Israel

about the extension of any visa

"We can prevent the entry of anyone without giving a reason. We don't have to justify a refusal on security ground. necessarily."

Mr. Peres added that there was no reason to feat a massive influx of permanent Palestinian residents into the Gaza Strip or Jericho. "It's hard to inject another 300,000 people into Gaza or even Jericho." he said. They have to eat, they have to drink and they have to subsist."

In an interview on Friday Mr. Arafat warned that a fa:lure of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks would plunge the Middle East into "chaos and balkanisaoon."

"We are walking on the razot's edge and the failure of peace is chaos and balkanisation. The atmosphere in the region is carrying us inexorably in that direction," Mr. Arafat told Rome's Messaggero news-

paper in Tunis. The interview appeared a day after Mr. Arafat said in Tunis that the United States had failed to push Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and that the delay was dangerous. He said: "The fsraelis are

very tough with us and we are faced with two possibilities: either annul the Washington accord or be flexible." In the interview, Mr. Arafat also criticised Israeli Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin for his role in the negotiations.
"Until now, Rabin has not kept his word. In December, he promised Egyptian President (Hosni) Mubarak and myself that we would meet within ten days. Two months have

him again," Mr. Arafat said. He called on the United States and its European allies to persuade Israel to imple-

passed and we have not seen

ment the peace agreement. "Now is the time to push Israel," Mr. Arafat said, "It's now up to (President Bill) Clinton, the Russians as well as Europe to exert pressure and

act as true garantors." The PLO chief also utged the international community to give financial support to help set up the Palestinian self-rule authority in the occupied terri-

"We need a Marshall plan for the entire zone, like the one which helped relaunch the European economy after the Second World War," he said.

Shoul tipped to succeed Badran

(Cuntinued from page 1) satisfaction by resigning his in-fluential position, "I do not expect that he (Massadeh) will accept to be nominated for the post a second time around."

University of Jordan.

"Mr. Massadeh would have been the most qualified especially, since be had served as the head of the court of cassation and as justice minister." said another senatot. The Senate had been divided

choice of either Mr. Obeidat 61 Mr. Massadeh. But Mr. Rifai enjoyed a

clear majority support over the other two candidates and his supporters were, in fact, willing to put the choice to a vote under the dome if the other two senators did not withdraw their nomination.

But since Senate tradition has been that decisions similar to this one are made in the corridors and not put to a vote in a senate session, the Upper House agreed to support Mr. Rifai's nomination. Mr. Sboul, a lawyer by pro-

fession, had held a number of

public posts including that of

minister of interior with Sharif

Zeid Bin Shaker's govern-

Palestinian state

(Cuntinued from page 11 identical hill by Moshe Peled (Tsomet) was defeated by 45 votes to 38.

Mr. Landau went so far as to

drop the original second paragraph of his proposal in order to gain support. The amended version stated that "the aim of the law is to prevent the establishment of a sovereign Arab-Palestinian state in the territory west of the Jotdan River. The government will prevent the establishment of (such

WHAT'S GOING ON

☆ Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa

'permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel.

DRAMA

☆ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-

Lecture entitled "Woman and Political Action" by Ms. Nawal Al Fa'ouri, Islamic Action Front Shura Council member, at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 8:00

By Dr. Musa Keilani

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Rhetoric, all the same

LATE LAST week a group of seventy-five people announced the formation of a "committee to resist submission and normalisation." The committee's main task, the group said in a statement, would be to preveat the peace process from culminating in normalisation of relations with Israel.

We cannot quarrel with any group of people who wish to voice their concern about the prospects and direction of peace in the area. It is common knowledge that waging peace is just as difficult as engaging in war activities, and the process would normally entail deep division in the ranks of the peoples affected by it. Just as the Israelis have of late witnessed an upsurge in extremism in opposition to the implications of the ongoing efforts for peace in the region, it is likewise natural that the Arab side would develop strong pockets of resistance to the new political, economic and security conditions that peace could bring. After generations of animosity and hostility between the Arabs and the Israelis, it should not be unexpected that a change in the geopolitical climate in the region would cause tremors on the two sides.

Still, one would have wished that the opposition forces to peace between the warring parties in the Middle East on both sides of the fence channelled their energies into more constructive directions by offering viable alternatives to current peace efforts. On the Israeli side, the ultra nationalists and the right would have nothing to do with trading land for peace or with the recognition of the Palestinians as people with legitimate rights and aspirations. Their extremist position is for all intents and purposes a prescription for the continuation of the past five decades of warfare and suffering. In other words, such Israelis would rather commit their people to a perpetual cycle of violence and insecurity for decades to come, if not centuries, than invest in peace that would offer the Arab side, the Palestinians included, its legitimate rights and its people an opportunity to lead a normal life. In this sense, there is an uncanny meeting of minds between Israeli hardliners and those Arabs who also do not want to give peace a chance. The hardliners on both sides would thus resist and fight without offering anything beyond what the Palestinians and other Arab parties have been hearing and experimenting since the inception of the Palestinian conflict.

The sterile perspective presented by hardliners and the bankruptcy of their views have emerged from the events of the last fifty or more years in Middle Eastern history. Since the utility or futility of any policy decision can best be gauged by its results, the consequences of the line of thinking presented by the group of seventy five are only too well known to the public to deserve an additional comment. We just have to say that if some of us, few as they may be, can sit and wait for miracles to happen to salvage us and our cause, it is doubtful our people and country can afford the same luxury

ARABIC PRES 5 COMMENTARIES

AT RA'l Arabic daily Friday cast doubt on the so-called pre arations by NATO forces to stem Serhian attacks on Mus. as in Sarajev and other parts of Bosnia. The ultimatum given the Serbs : and their fighting is a mere attempt to mislead the world and once the deadline for the Serbs to pull out their guns ends. The attackers would resume their aggression on the city of Sarajevo indifferent to the NATO threats, said the paper. Saying that David Owen, the European mediator, is failing in his mission since his arrival in the former Yugoslavia, the paper said that Lord Owen has bused himself not with forcing the Serbs to stop their at prities, their killing of innocent Muslims and the raping of Muslim women, but rather with means of covering up for the Serbs' aggression. The Europeans, who claim to be Christians, are now bent on annihilating the Muslim people of Europe not for 12 henefit of Christianity, but rather for selfish interests or colonialist purpo es. The same Europeans said the have been bent on killing both the Christians and the Musl people of Iraq and maintaining a siege on the Iraqi sick - I wounded charged the daily. The paper said that, regret , bly, the Arab regimes are continually closing their ears to the lies of the children and women in Bosnia and Iraq and are hisying themselves with reconciliation efforts with the Israelis. It said that under the so-called new world order, the taders of the colonial powers are employing a formidable n, inery to destroy what is left of Christianity, transforming of in the hands of criminals who continue, to carry out their be reide against the other nations of the world.

Jordanian Perspective



THE AGREEMENT that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres produced in Cairo on Feb. 9 has predictably drawn dismay among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the East Bank. Expectations that the shape of the interim arrangement for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories would be the forerunner of eventual Palestinian independence have suffered a serious blow even among the born-optimists and those who tend to see the proverbial balf-full side of the glass.

For starters, the Cairo deal effectively consolidates, if not legitimises, the Israeli grip on the occupied territories. For all practical purposes, it leaves no sign of the Palestinian right to sovereignty in their land. Indeed, the Palestinians are allowed to raise their flag at the border posts. But then so were the Vichy regime under the Germans and Antoine Lahad under Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. But were they symbols of independence or subservience?

Granted, the "final status" of the occupied territories is to

be negotiated in three years from now, and, technically speaking, the ground is open for the Palestinians to secure their legitimate territorial and political rights through negotiations, regardless of the shape of the interim arrangement.

But, before we get into the business of "final status" negotiations, it seems that the Israelis are hell-bent on retaining "sovereignty" and diluting the Palestinian quest for statehood as much as possible. The writing is on the wall. Indications to the man on the

street in Jordan are that the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement could turn out to be the "final status" rather than an "interim"

Proclamations by Israeli politicians from the Labour Party that the negotiations would inevitably lead to the creation of a Palestinian state are nothing but diversionary tactics and are not worth even the paper that carried the reports.

The unanswered questions point to a predetermined Israeli rejection of the Palestinians legitimate national and political rights, not to mention an independent Palestinian state. These include: If indeed the entire occupied territories are to be placed under Palestinian self-rule for five years pending a 'final status" solution, why then the haggling now over a few dozen square kilometres of land?

We have often heard the term "progressive autonomy from both sides, indicating that major towns and cities in the West Bank would be turned over to Palestinian control in a matter of months after the self-rule arrangement is put in place. Why then going to the extremes in refusing to accept a logical size of area where autonomy could take off in the first Similarly, if the Palestinians are supposed to assume full control over their affairs, barring external security, why then is the Israeli insistence on retaining a veto over who enters and leaves the occupied lands?

After all, is it not in the interest of the Palestinian self-rule authority to maintain law and order in the areas under its control and not allow anyone to endanger the autonomy arrangement through staging incidents that could be construed as "security threats" by the Israelis and scramble the peace

Again, why the dispute over the size of the police force? Even in an optimum scenario, the total number of Palestinian policemen and family members who would enter the occupied territories is 25,000. Why should the Israelis get alarmed over that number, given the fact that it represents only 0.5 per cent of the over four million Palestinians living in the diaspora?

"The PLO leadership, which boasts of having a strong "constituency" in Jordan, has to take into consideration that the Kingdom has a concern beyond the immediate relationship of one Arab party supporting another's decisions and moves in the context of peace negotiations with a common enemy."

That, said however, there is no questioning of the fact that agreements to these arrangements were given or are in the process of being given by the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian People, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). As such, Jordan does not challenge the decision, particularly that the Cairo agreement has been proclaimed by our own strategists as having "calculated" the January accord on security aspects signed by the Kingdom and the PLO.

As far as relations between two entities are concerned, the PLO could not ask for more than Jordan has given in terms of support for the Sept. 13 accord despite its reservations and the Kingdom's international moves in support of the Palestinian struggle in their negotiations with Israel.

Jordanian complaints that the level of the PLO's coordina tion with the Kingdom was not of a level that meets the

challenges of the day stemmed from several aspects:

Iordan, as a sovereign and independent country, has its own national concerns and it would refuse to be a party to any agreement in which it has to play a role dictated by parties, which did not get its approval. There is no doubt that this message is clearly understood but not acted upon by the PLO

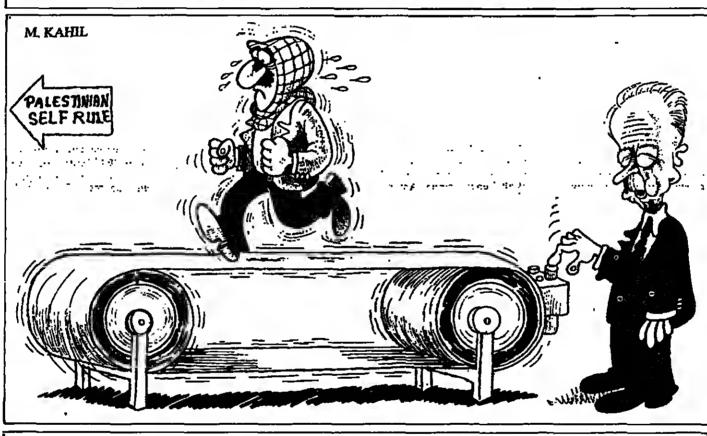
The two-day Jordan-PLO meeting in Amman last week appeared to have gone a considerable way in clearing the air. as Jordanian officials have affirmed. Joint committees have been revived, and the focus is on specific arrangement that would be put into place during the interim Palestinian self-rule period. Hopefully, the PLO side is sincere in its undertakings with Jordan and we would see more of coordination in a manner that strengthens both sides in their respective negotiations with Israel as well as the multilateral talks aimed at creating an atmosphere where peace agreements and treaties

But what is left unsaid in the entire deal is how Jordanians with Palestinian roots, who have a very deep interest in seeing a just and equitable settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, see the state of affairs. That is not to say that all of them are eager to pack up their bags and return to their homeland at the first given opportunity. But they definitely seek Palestinian independence and to be at least told that they have a right to exercise their options in an atmosphere free of

The PLO leadership, which boasts of having a strong "constituency" in Jordan, has to take into consideration that the Kingdom has a concern beyond the immediate relationship of one Arah party supporting another's decisions and moves in the context of peace negotiations with a common enemy.

And that is a cause for worry since the repercussions for Jordan, God forbid, of the PLO falling short of the aspirations of the Palestinians will be heavy, particularly if the Kingdom is perceived as having gone ahead unreservedly with a course of PLO action which may not bode well for the Palestinian cause

I do not claim to have a ready-made solution to the problem. But, for one thing, the PLO could do a lot by closer consultations with the experienced strategists of Jordan in advancing the process of negotiations and ensuring that whatever possible is done to allay the fears of the PLO's self-styled constituency in Jordan.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Cairo deal detrimental to Palestinian rights; Yemeni reconciliation is cause for joy

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

CRITICISM OF the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Cairo agreement, domestic issues and the situation in Bosnia and Iraq dominated the themes in the local Arabic press in the past

The Cairo deal, signed hy the PLO and Israel, has taken the Palestine issue into a dark tunnel with no sign of light at the end, said Arafat Hijazi, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab.

The fact that the deal was in favour of the Israelis was underlined by a spokesman. for the Israeli army, who said the army participated actively in drawing up its provisions over matters related to security, said the writers. "We fear that in the absence of sufficient Palestinian military and political experts, Israel would continue to secure more gains at the expense of the Palestinian," said the writer.

The Palestinian masses were not expected to take to the streets and express their joy over the Cairo agreement because it is only a mere deal that would probably be exploited by the Israelis to their own benefit, said Taher Adwan in Al Dustour. The masses seldom trust political solutions which fail to be implemented on the ground and which are normally of

benefit to the enemy, he said. The writer said that the PLO leadership, like the other regimes of the Arah world, does not inform the masses of the deals concluded with the Israelis in a true expression of lack of democracy and absence of close contacts and cooperation between the rul-

ers and the ruled. Commenting on a statement to the Israeli press by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in which he advocated the creation of confederation between Israel, the occupied territories and Jordan, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that Israel is using the occupied territories as a tool to achieve a federal entity with Jordan. Tareq Masarwh said that through this scheme, Israel is clearly trying to fulfill its old dream of creating a substitute Palestinian entity at the expense of Jordan. He said that under the Cairo agreement. Israel remains in full charge of the crossing points be-tween the West Bank and Jordan, enabling the Jewish

come into the West Bank. Mahmoud Rimawi. a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that while the Arah masses

state to control the travel of

Palestinians both ways, and

ensuring that more Palesti-

nians go out than those who

decried the Cairo deal, Washington has naturally welcomed it because it is clearly in favour of the Jewish Tareq Masarweh and Tah-

er Al Adwan welcomed the

expected deal for reconciliadon between the leaders of the Yemeni people. One cannot hide the Arab masses joy over the end of the Yemeni political crisis and the Jordanian people in particular take pride in the fact that the reconciliation is to he crowned with the signing of a document in Amman said Masarweh. He expressed hope that the document would be implemented and serve as an impetus for equality between the north and south in development matters and in helping the Yemeni people to attain their common objectives.

Adwan said that any delay in signing the document and implementing its provisions is bound to backfire and adversely affect the morals of the Yemeni people. The document to be signed by the Yemeni leaders in Amman. he said, sets an example for the leaders of the Arab countries to forge the long awaited

Arab unity. Salameh Ekour, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab, reflected on the situation in Iraq and stressed that the Arab countries, which are applying the sanctions on the Iraqi people,

are responsible for their suffering. The writer said that Arah leaders are responsible for the tens of thousands of Iraqi citizens who continually lose their lives due to the lack of food and medicine and are also responsible for future Iraqi boycott of any Arah activities at the political, social and economic levels.

Mohammad Subeihi, a columnist in Al Dustour, urged Jordanian women to lead the campaign against those tampering with the food and medicine. "Housewives have to date failed to joint the campaign although they are responsible for the well-being of their households and children and they serve as the first defence line protecting their families," said the wri-Molammad Daoud,

another Al Dustour columnist, exp. essed fear that the manipulation of merchants dealing with food stuffs would continue unless the government took drastic measures against them.

Referring to the past week's discovery of merchants trying to peddle defreezed meat as fresh meat, the writer said the Ministry of Supply ought to re-examine its present measures concerning the trading in food supplies and should employ qualified personnel to conduct actual inspection of food sup-

plies sold in stores.

NATO's 'risky' plans

Allies Sarajevo mission would be tougher than Gulf raids

By Nicholas Doughty

Bosnia from bases in Italy.

But military officials say strikes in Bosnia could be a far tougher and riskier operation than the Gulf war, despite the fact that NATO pilots have been able to prepare carefully by flying over their potential

In January 1991, allied warplanes blasted Iraqi positions in and around Kuwait, dropping millions of tonnes of bombs, strafing troop positions and using guided weapons to wreck air defences. power stations and other in-

In addition, the good weather and open desert terrain were ideal for air operations.

But even with those advantages, ground troops were needed to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait - leading the military to the conclusion that air power can only help to win a war, not do the job on its

Even though the battle lines in the heat of battle.

Those limitation serve to point up the risks in Bosnia. military officials say.

The problems lie elsewhere. It will he much harder to find and hit targets in Bosnia's hilly, wooded terrain than it was in the descri, even though

forward air controllers in Bosnia have worked with NATO pilots to pinpoint targets so far.

ling the higgest collection of Western air power since the 1991 Gulf war against Iraq. ready to hit Serb forces besieging Sarajevo or elsewhere in

"In some ways, this is the best prepared air campaign in history. The pilots have had an unprecedented amount of time over Bosnia." said one NATO military official.

"But there are different problems, different risks involved here. They take away a lot from that advantage."

stallations.

Then as now, allied forces had full control of the skies and could operate as they liked. around the clock, with virtually no opposition from Iraqi planes or the country's shattered air defences. The U.S.led coalition lost only a handful

were clearly drawn in the Gulf. there were several incidents of allied planes firing on their own ground forces hy mistake

NATO pilots say they are not greatly worried by Bosnian Serh anti-aircraft fire. They do not have an integrated air defence system backed hy radar as did the Iraqis, just some guns and shoulder-launched missiles that Western jets can

other heavy weapons can be easily moved, where Iragi weapons were dug in to prepared positions and less

mobile. There is also a much greater danger of killing civilians with air strikes in Bosnia, especially if the Serbs move their weapons into towns and vil-

"There are no definites in this world, you can't be absolutely sure that you will eliminate collateral damage." said U.S. Captain Jim Pavlica, who flies an A-10 "Warthog" attack plane from Aviano airhase in nonhern Italy.

Bad winter weather in Bosnia, with low cloud and rain. also means it could he harder to hit targets accurately. Pilots interviewed in the last few days said conditions had been far

from ideal for any air strikes. The higgest concern for NATO, though, is whether its planes can protect U.N. peacekeepers and relief workers on the ground in Bosnia, where there are no clearlydefined front lines, if they are attacked in retaliation for air

NATO commanders are beefing up the U.S., British. French. Dutch and Turkish air forces in Italy with planes suited for a ground attack role. By the end of this week. there will be around 170 fighters. bombers and ground

attack jets in Italy or based on aircraft carriers in the Adriatic. Through mid-air refuelling from tankers, the planes can stay over Bosnia, covering U.N. peacekeepers in enclaves such as Srebrenica and Tuzla as well as Sarajevo, until

they run out of ammunition. nombs and missiles... But the planes cannot hold ground and, if Serh or other forces move in close to U.N. troops, the pilots could risk killing the very people they

want to protect. Western allies are unwilling to consider the only alternatives: pulling the 10,000 lightlyarmed peacekeepers out before any air strikes or sending more troops, armour and artillery in to support them on the

The history of air power, from World War II through vietnam to the Gulf, has proved that it cannot win a conflict on its own," saidanother NATO official. Bosnia has got a lot of risks, the worst kind for pilots."

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The 'smoke' invasion

Asians puff their way towards world's largest cigarette market

HONG KONG - They are smaking eigarettes in the mountains of Nepal to increase their stamina.

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be a party to any dictated by parts to doubt that the dupon by the PLG In the Philippines, cigarettes are mixed with healthy images of the good life, hang gliding, skiing and high-speed

And in Vietnam, anything American is good, with Lucky Strike, Mariboro and Pall Mall providing a taste of the affluent

Spurred on hy the sophisticated marketing prowess of Western cigarette companies. Asians are quickly puffing their way into becoming the world's largest and most lucra-

"I am smoking because I feel tired and this cigarette will refresh me," said Ram Bahadur Tamang, a middle-aged porter in Kathmandu. "It gives me strength to carry my heavy

Asia already accounts for more than half the world's coosumption of cigarettes. according to a report released last month by the British market research group EURO-MONITOR.

The report also revealed the region's potential for even more growth, with the average Asian still smoking less than half the number of cigarettes per year than his European

"The tohacco companies are pretty much behind this trend in smoking," said Judith Mackay, a Hong Kong-based consul-tant for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and one of Asia's best known antismoking crusaders.

Western cigarette companies, with help from their governments, particularly the United States, have used fairtrade agreements to crack most of the state-controlled cigarette monopolies in the re-

A U.S. government report shows that American tobacco exports grew from \$64 billion to \$142 billion a year in the late 1980s, with about 55 per cent of that due to imports by Japan. Taiwan and South Korea. A rangoon-based diplomar

representing a cigarette-exporting nation recently deplored what he called the dumping of tobacco products in the developing world by Western nations, where con-

sumption was diminishing. "I'm a social smoker myself, but I'm frankly disturbed by what we in the developed world are doing," the diplomat

Western tobacco companies say, however, that they are filling the demand for what is a popular and legal habit, and that all the blame should not be placed on them, given that most of these countries had state-owned cigarette companies before.

"We are not guilty, as we are not forcing anyone to smake, only selling satisfaction like botels sell hospitality," said Rubul A. Mazumdar, director of the mainly British-owned Bangladesh Tobacco Company Ltd. "Blaming us is unfair," he said.

But Mr. Mackay says that Western cigarette companies western cigarette companies, have found developing coununlike the state monopolies, tries to be the ripest market 10 compensate for dwindling sales at home. Men make up the vast majority of smokers in Asia, although the number of women and children taking up the habit is on the rise, according to WHO statistics.

Vietnam has a smoking rate of between 50 per cent and 80 per cent among men in urban areas, and in Cambodia the rate is as high as 80-to-100 per cent among all men. In Thailand, there were 11.4 million smokers in 1991, a 10 per cent increase from three years earlier, according to the country's health ministry.

China is the largest smoking country in the world, with more than 300 million people having taken up the habit, according to the government's statistics.

China's cigarette market is still fairly restricted to foreign cigarettes.

A Western tobacco company spokesman in India, where 80 billion cigarettes were sold last year, said: "If four people can sell cigarettes why not a fifth." Agence France-Presse

To our health

By Jimmy Carter

THE U.S. tobacco industry has launched a massive campaign to defeat President Bill. Clinton's proposal to add a sobstantial health tax on cigarettes and an equivalent tax on other tobacco products.

As a southerner and a farmer, I care about the plight of the tobacco farmer. But I also care that tohacco killed 419.000 Americans last year. Almost all of them started smoking as children and became addicted before they were old eoough to know hetter. There are real people with real families behind each of those death statistics - people like my father, my mother, both sisters and my brother, all of whom smoked and died of

President Clinton's proposal would lengthen the lives of an estimated 900,000 Americans by discouraging children from becoming addicted to cigarettes and encouraging

many current smokers to quit. This bealth tax would extend more lives than any single preventive health measure now under consideration.

The tobacco industry is using its enormous public relations and lobbying resources to try to convince Congress and the American public that a health tax on tohacco would do such a good job of reducing smoking that tobacco farmers and the economy of the south would be devastated. This implies that Americans must keep smoking and dying in vast numbers of preserve tobacco industry jobs and the economic bealth of tobacco-producing states. This argument is both immoral and factually wrong.

Eveo if the debate were about tobacco industry jobs vs. human lives, only the tobacco processors would support the sacrifice of buodreds of thousands of lives to protect a much smaller nomber of jobs.

But the debate is not about jobs vs. lives. The tobacco industry has distorted the facts about jobs, just as it has manipulated the government and the tobacco farmers for so many years. One recent industry publication projected that the tax would cost 270,000 jobs even though there are only 256,616 jobs involved in the entire U.S. tobacco industry, including farming, warehous-

ing, manufacturing and

wholesaling.

Economists and bealth experts agree that President Clinton's proposal would cause about a 12 per cent drop in smoking. But this would not be devastating for tobacco farmers. Demand for U.S.-grown tobacco woold drop by only about 6 per cent because approximately half of all U.S.grown tobacco is now exported, either as raw tohacco or in cigarettes. Tobacco leaf and cigarettes sent overseas will cause death and disease in

other nations but will not be

The irony is that tohacco farmers really are in trouble. More than 40,000 tobacco farms disappeare ' during the past 10 years, and tohacco manufacturing jobs have fallen 29 per cent. These job losses cannot be hlamed on health restrictions; they occurred despite the fact that 28 billion

more cigarettes were made in

affected by the health tax.

bring with them sophisticated

advertising campaigns that

have linked smoking with the

region's growing affluence and

is attracting more young peo-

Cigarelle companies, many

of them American and British.

spent more than \$185 million

last year for advertising in

Asia, according to a survey by

Asian advertising and market-

showing Chinese selling to

Chinese," Mr. Mackay said.

It shows the Marlboro cow-

boy riding around, or Cauca-

sians enjoying the good life in a

mountain top villa... they are

selling a western lifestyle," he

Smoking rates in Asia are much higher than in Europe

and the United States, where

on average 30 per cent of men

and women smoke, a number

that continues to decline be-

cause of tough anti-smoking

legislation and campaigns.

The advertising is not

ple and women.

ing magazine.

the U.S. in 1991 than in 1983 because of rising cigarette ex-Farmers and workers are suffering bard times because tobacco companies are now importing more than one-third of the tobacco used in U.S.-

made cigarettes, producing more cigarettes overseas and automating production to eliminate manufacturing jobs. While encouraging American farmers to fight tobacco taxes, Applications of the promajor tobacco companies are teaching growers in other countries how to produce tobacco for the U.S. market.

Change for tobacco farmers is inevitable. They should pursue their enlightened selfinterest in a bigh health tax on tobacco, with a generous portion earmarked to belp tohacco farmers and their communities shift to other sources of incomes. If tobacco companies were truly interested in helping farmers and not just securing profits, they would agree.

Eveo a much higher health tax increase of \$2 per pack, which polls show is supported by the vast majority of the American public, including two-thirds of tobacco state voters, could be one of the tobacco farmers and the south - not to mention the rest of the country.

The writer, a former U.S. pres-Ident, is chairman of the Carter Centre in Atlanta. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem

Hizbollah Weighing the options

By Nadim Ladki Reuter

ЛВSHEET, Lehanon -Prospects of peace in the Middle East are forcing even the most radical Muslim fundamentalists in the front line against Israel to consider what once was unthinkable: laying down their arms.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), whose fighters attack Israeli troops in south Lebanoo almost every week, has been grappling for several months now with the issue of what to do if Lebaooo and Israel sign a peace

A senior pro-Iranian source in Beirnt says the group has come up with a plan "to face the consequences of such a peace if and when it happens."

He said Hizbollah would disband its 5,000-strong military wing, the Islamic Resistance, once the last Israeli soldier withdrew from south Lebanon.

But it will maintain its political, social and security organs and resist any attempts to normalise ties with Ísrael.

The source did not elaborate, but Lebanese security sources believe Hizbollah's security organs could spearhead attempts to prevent any trade or economic dealings with Israel.

In the past the security organs bave carried out suicide bomb attacks and assassinations against Israeli and Western targets io Lehanoo,

The group is also believed to be the umbrella organisation for hostage takers who nade Lebanon a no-go zone for Westerners in the 1980s. It denies links with the bostagetakers.

"Our struggle bas two froots: preventing recogni-tion of Israel and (preventing) oormalisation of ties with it," another senior pro-Iranian source in Beirut said.

"We are bound to lose the battle or recognition wheo and if the governments sign peace treaties with Israel. But in the war of oormalisa-



Hizboliah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasraliah: The resistance will go on (AFP)

tion, we have several means to stop the Arah peoples from accepting the concept of ties with Israel," he said.

Israel and the United States want the Lebanese army to disarm Hizbollah before any Israeli withdrawal from a self-styled security zone in south Lebanon. But the Lebanese govern-

ment says resistance to the occupation is legitimate and vows not to curb Hizbollah, the only Lebanese militia that still has arms, before Israel sets a timetable

The guerrillas say they will keep their fingers on the trigger until every Israeb soldier has left. "We doo't trust them, we

will oot take their word and stop our attacks ooly on promises," said a Hizbollah military commander ideotified only as Hajj, interviewed by Reuters at his modest house in the southern village of Jibsheet, "We will stop only wben

we see they all left," said Hajj, who according to colleagues bas taken part in 40 attacks on Israeli troops.

guerrilla bases in the south and has a large part of its: popular support there. After mounting thousands of attacks since 1983 on Israeli and allied forces its fighters: are still learning how to deal with prospect of peace.

"Once the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon ends we know we will have to put down our arms as our immediate goal would have been achieved," Hajj said.

"We don't want to be dragged into any confrontation with the Lehanese army when and if Israel withdraws." he said.

"The army woold then want to take over security and we will not try to stop it, another guerrilla explained as a sonie boom from an Israeli jet shook the village.

The Islamic resistance has

grown into a formidable force in recent years, pulling off several successful attacks against the security zone. A senior Western diplomat in Beirut said Hizbollah was "very effective and is a force to be reckoned with."

Northeast Somalia At peace but seeking better life

By Buchizya Mseteka

ALULA, Somalia - Fiftyyear-old Mohammad Ahmad Shabel stood up to welcome rare visitors to this barren village at the tip of the Horn of Africa and entrance to the He cleared his throat. "We

need help here," he said. This is a peaceful area. We have organised ourselves politically and all we need now is material assistance from donors and the United Na-

"I think it is only fair the U.N. and donors reward those areas that are peaceful, areas that are beginning to reconstruct themselves, but clearly lack the funds to do so on It wasn't much of a pitch for

money. But peace was about all he had in this very remote and rugged corner of Somalia. There is a sharp contrast between the tranquility of this end of the set district and the banditry and intermittent clashes in the capital Mogadishu between U.N. peacekeepers and gunmen, or the looming tension in the southern port city of Kis-

> No gunman or clan fighter is to be seen on the streets in Alula, a cluster of thatched huts and a single, dilapidated concrete building northeast of

> the coastal town of Bossaso. The last gunshot fired in the irea was 18 months ago. resi-

Alula used to be home to he priors could re some 7,000 fishing families. But 90 per cent of the population have fled the nrea since 1992 when killing, looting and destruction swept across Somalia in a civil war fuelled by famine that killed 350,000

ler the only alicheing the 10.000 half Mr. Shabel is chairman of the newly established Alula District Council, one of the 15 set up in Somalia's vast northeast out of 80 for the whole country planned by the U.N. operation in Somalia (UN-

> UNOSOM wants to resurfect government in Somalia. which has been without one since rebels toppled President

STARVA-TION: Somali women quene for food at a 'feeding centre" in wardisbn (AFP



Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991.

But the campaign faces serious resistance, partly hecause is threatens to wrest power from warlords such as General Mohammad Ahshir Muse. head of the region's only military faction. the Somali Salvation Democratic Front.

"Districts are a good way of reconstructing a country like ours, which has over the last three years degenerated into the 15th century," said Ali Artan Yusuf, a 52-year-old

businessman. Mr. Yusuf, like most Alula inhabitants, belongs to the Merjenen clan. He fled Mogadishu when warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's Habr Gedir clan stormed the capital and the slaughter began.

In the last year 54 of the 80 planned councils were formed. including only one of the 15 envisaged for Mogadishu. The shortfall is due to fight25,000-strong U.N. forces and apposition by Gen. Aideed and some other warlords who denounce the councils as tools of U.N. "Colonialism.

Under the U.N. plan, district councils should form regional councils and set up a central authority known as the Transitional National Council by the end of Fehruary before elections for a new government in 1995.

Ourgoing U.N. Special Representative to Sumalia Jonathan Howe, a retired U.S. admiral, admits the road to reconstruction is long and bumpy as long as Gen. Aideed opposes the U.N. presence.

But all the same it's encouraging to see areas such as Alula leading the way. People here see no point in antagonistic polities and are now gearing up to a new life." Mr. Howe said during a tour of Alula.

The international commun-

ity will reward areas that are

peaceful and ready to rebuild their lives. The message to those who refuse to cooperate is that the international community is no longer patient." As elsewhere in Somalia, everything from rooftops to water pumps was looted in Alula after the Barre government's fall

Virtually all families in Alula are destitute but they receive hasic essentials such as cooking pots, plastic huckers and metal sheets from aid agencies operating in the area.

But by Somali standards. Alula is a peaceful place.

"It's so beautiful and encouraging here, very different from the south of the country." said Alexa McArthur of the Geneva-hased MEDAIR, one of four foreign nurses helping provide some medical care in

"People here are peaceful and keen to get back to leading their normal lives," she said.

Special Ramadan Offering From The Colombo Marriott In Surprising Sri Lanka Why not try something different this year? Sri Lanka, with it's 1000 kms of unspoilt beaches, national parks terming with elephant, leopand and a host of other anunals, stupendous hill country, with water falls amidst lush tea plantations and it's smiling, mainly English speaking Sri Lankan people.. Royal Jordanian Airlines flies twice weekly to Sri Lanka. The Colombo Marriott, situated in the very heart of the city, yet offering unsurpassed views of the Indian Ocean invites you to savor this brilliant panorama with our special offer of US\$ 46/- for a single or double room with just US\$ 16/- nure per person, giving you full breakfast and dinner daily (the only five star hotel serving halal food in Colombo). Tours and overnight accommodation can also be arranged. For reservation or more information, please contact Mr Francis Keenan, general manager or the sales department. Colombo Marriott Hotel 64 Lotus Road Colombo 1 Phone no: (94-1) 544544 Fax no: (94-1) 449875 Marriott Every guest leaves satisfied!

German markets disappointed by Bundesbank rate cut

share and bond markets weakened Friday as investors reacted with disappointment to what was seen as only a halfhearted interest rate cut by the Bundesbank Thursday.

After an initially huge rally in the wake of the Bundesbank's half-point cut in the discount rate to 5.25 pet cent. both bond and share prices failed to recover after falling sharply on Thursday after-

> Although the German move triggered off a round of interest rate cuts throughout Europe, domestic markets felt cheated because the powerful German central bank had on1paved the way for a genera decline in interest rates some-

time in the future. The Bundesbank's most important interest rate - its securities repurchase rate was held steady at six per cent on Thursday, the level which has prevailed since early De-

The Bundesbank controls short-term money market rates via this "repo" rate, the price at which it offers funds to the banking system in weekly tenders for cash.

Nigel Longley, an institutional adviser at Commerzbank, said, "the market was disconcerted by the fact that the repo rate was not cut. It was interpreted as not a strong

On the Frankfurt Bourse the 30-share DAX index closed at .151.97, up 1.09 per cent or 23.25 points from the previous floor trade close, before the Bundesbank cut the discount

But it was down 10.32 points from Thursday's post-bourse finishing level. There was a similar reaction

1 the bond market, which had sun dramatic initial gains after the discount move and just as dramatic falls in late Thursday

Despite the cautious market n action to the Bundesbank nove, the European Commission welcomed the steps taken by other European nations to

match the Germans. "We don't really have a declaration (on rate cuts). but obviously are very satisfied with the downward movement." a spokesman for Economic Affairs Commissioner Henning Christophersen said. On Friday, the Danish cen-

key deposit rate to 5.50 per cent from 5.75 per cent. Sweden cut its key marginal rate to 7.25 from 7.50 per cent, the Bank of Finland's money market tender rate fell to 4.75 from 4.95 per cent and the

tral bank cut its discount and

to around 8.55 per cent. Austria, the Netherlands, Belginm and Italy had moved already on Thursday. But French interest rates held

Bank of Spain reduced its daily intervention rate by about 0.25

Arab states seek to cut pollution from cement plants

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Arab states are seeking to cut pollution from their cement plants, amid growing concern in a region where environmental damage is among the worst in

officials from the 21-member Arab League will meet in Rivadh in April to discuss upgrading efficiency and intro-ducing technology at their cement facilities to reduce pollution, their cement union has

The April 25-27 talks will cover "environmental problems resulting from the cement industry... and identifying methods of developing technological facilities to cut pollntion, the Damascus-based union said in a report obtained

The conference, the first of its kind in the Arab World, will bring together Arab cement producers, Arab and foreign environmental officials and experts, and world producers of anti-poliution equipment. Cement is among the main

industries in Arab countries. Latest figures showed Arab states produced around 66 miltion tonnes of cement in 1991. of which around a third are produced by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council

Egypt is the top cement producer in the Arab World, with output standing at more than 13 million tonnes in 1991.

The Riyadh conference comes amidst growing environmental concerns in the Gulf and other Arab countries due to high pollution levels from car exhausts, inadequate waste disposal, desertification and persistent oil leakage.

The Gulf is among the

world's most polluted regions due to a rapid growth in indus-tries and the leakage of more than one million barrels of crude into the water every year.

European producer cuts keep aluminium ball rolling

prices surged to 18-month highs Friday as traders took beart from fresh promises to cut production which suggest that a global agreement to reduce the flood of metal into the

market really could work. Price on the London Metal Exchange (LME) have risen almost 20 per cent since January. On Friday the metal was worth \$1,331 a tonne, a rise of \$17 and the highest since August 1992.

The rise buoyed the rest of the industrial metals on the LME though those prices later edged off a little.

Last month in Brussels major Western and Russian producers agreed cuts were essential to bring the world's aluminium surplus under control.

Three European smelters this week announced aluminium production cuts totalling 93,000 tonnes a year, and Russian official insisted they would uphold their end of the bar-

"I was sceptical (about the plan) until recently. It now depends on Russia," said Neil Buxton at Metal Bulletin Research.

The bightweight metal is increasingly popular in industry where it is used to make anything from cars to drink cans. But a global recession and surging exports from Russia. which saw its domestic market collapse along with the Soviet Union, led to a fast rise in stocks, estimated by one trader at close to six months' con-

The latest announcements bave belped calm an anxious market which was bearing

sumption needs.

countries but little action in West Europe which had initially pledged to take 300,000. tonnes out of the market. The West's cuts now total around 737,000 tonnes while Russia has said its cuts already top 100,000 and should be up to 300,000 by the end of April.

"If the West cuts output by one million tonnes and Russia cuts exports by 250,000 tonnes. it would put the market ba-lance in a 400,000-tonne deficit this year," Mr. Buxton said.

That would still not be enough to reduce stocks, which in LME warebouses alone stand at over 2.5 million tonMARINE DE PROPERTIES DE LA CONTRACTOR DE

Gold price drops

LONDON (R) - Gold slid Friday to its lowest level in three weeks as investment funds in the United States decided to sell, bullion traders

The fail started on New York's comex market, spreading to London, where gold was fixed in the afternoon at \$379.90 an ounce, a drop of nearly \$6 from the previous day's closer.

It later slipped to around

"It was a whole different ball game when the funds came in," one dealer said, adding that there seemed no single piece of news to trigger the

selling.

Dealers said gold had looked vulnerable to correction this week, having failed to climb above \$387. The next support level for the market was expected to be around \$375.

Some dealers said there now seemed to be less chance of air strikes in Bosnia and this might have removed the incentive for precautionary buying of gold ahead of the weekend. Gold had traditionally been a safe haven for funds at times of

"The removal of that threat may bave pushed forward a couple of days what was going to happen anyway," one said.

Jordan Times

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FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer Carroll Righter Foundation GENERAL TENDENCIES: is good, 100.

Unusual and heneficial counds tions are in the offering early his evening be sure to tal early from the future. But make tage of since and have a light on self in the future. But make the tiling! Avoid unterconfilered certain you get right information maker and don't jeopardise any . first: Follow those who are clever and can be trusted.

ful in motion. Arrange your transportation more intelligently and you travel with greater case and speed in the future.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You feel like going on a spending spree because you are worried. but this is the worldly and part of your thinking, so think objective

fy instead. GEMINI: (May 2f in June 21) Take care you do not make unkind remarks to others simply because you are worried about something. Add to present good will you now enjoy instead.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 211 If you think others have slighted or annived you, say nuthing and return in kind in stead of complaining. Finish boring tasks and you have more time for pleasurable things fater.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Try not to argue with a good friend today just because you are trustrated. Find some better way to get ahead socially.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be careful you do not jeopardise your good name in any way either in business or in personal life. See that your credit

ARIES: (March 21 to April 14) SCORPIO: (October 23 to You have to be particularly care- November 21) It might be best not to express certain views you have though you know them to be right. Wait for a better time. Do more studying in the mean-

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get that data you have neglected from associates so that your joint projects run more smoothly instead of

being critical of them. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be enthusiastic about doing the tasks that are ahead of you and keep out of trouble you could otherwise get into. Be a clever, dynamic per-

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are very an: xious to have a good time hut make sure it is not so terribly expensive to make you sad later. Do not associate with undependable persons or you will regree it

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Have more faith in how kin are handling home affairs instead of thinking you can do much better on your own. Be sure to clear the way of anything that stands in the way of your advancement.

lead

U.S

Yen strength could intensify, reach 95 to the dollar

group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client

Fundamental view: An impasse between the U.S. and Japan over trade issues has led to a sharp surge in the yen in recent days. With the yen now trading at the JPY/USD 104 level, the Japanese unit has already appreciated beyond our previous 12-month target level of JPY/USD 105. After having moved so far, so fast, we would not be surprised to see the yen pull back a bit in coming months if the U.S. and Japan make some progress on easing trade frictions.

But prospects for large current account surpluses to persist suggest that yen strength will continue and perhaps intensify over the coming year. We have moved our 6-month target for the yen to JPY/USD 100 and our 12-month target to JPY/USD 95. We continue to look for the dollar to strengthen against European currencies over the coming year as European interest rates decline, and look for the dollar to trade at the 5.4. DM/USD 1.85 level by this time next year.

Technical view: Overall, the week ended Feb. 11 was uneventful for the U.S. dollar. This is reflected by the fact that the greenback rallied agains three of the six major currencies that we most regularly discuss and by the fact that the dollar index fell a modest 0.10 per cent for the week. However, the weakness of the past two days was both eventful and in line with medium term momentum oscillators which have had a downward bias for some time. It should be noted that sentiment has been ceteriorating of late.

Despite the fact that we still think that the greenback is positioning itself for a strong rally over the longer term, these conflicts — together with the presence of important resistance at 97.50-98.00 — suggest that the index itself may not have a sustainable move in either direction until the conflicts are resolved. The dollar's movements against individual currencies, therefore, should be monitored more closely than the index. Nearby support is just above 94.00, with benchmark support at 90.29.

Japanese yen

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Fundamental view: An extraordinarily rapid rise of the yen in recent days to the JPY/USD 101.3 level was triggered by an impasse in U.S.-Japan trade talks that came to a head on Feb. 11 when President Clinton met Prime Minister Hosokawa. With the U.S. now threatening trade sanctions, market participants appear to have concluded that a stronger yen is warranted as well, even though there is little evidence that the U.S. is deliberately talking up the yen. The yen is likely to remain highly sensitive to U.S.-Japan political tensions in coming weeks. Trade concessions by the Japanese could lead to a pullback in the yen. while lack of progress in boosting imports would like a stronger yen to restrain Japanese exports. The recent rise of the yen could also push the Bank of Japan to

a 0.50 per cent or 0.75 per cent cut in the discount rate, which we expect will be needed in any case in coming weeks.

Although trade tensions have served as the catalyst for the latest move in the yen, we have argued for some time that persistent current account surpluses would bring renewed upward pressure on the yen. Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect it to post a current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should belp the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next

Technical view: The Japanese yen gained 1.4 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week, and - for the third week in a row --- was the strongest currency of the six we most regularly monitor. Further strength this week bas carried the currency through to test the August high near 101?/U.S.S. Medium term momentum is constructive, sentiment indicators are still only neutral, and we have been of the view that the August-January correction has given way to a resumption of the underlying long term uptrend. This recent strength substantiates that latter point and implies a yen bigh near 101 in coming weeks. Benchmark support remains 113-114, with intervening support in the neighbourhood of 110-111.

Deutschemark

Fundamental view: The dollar has pulled back from the DM/USD 1.75 level to the DM/USD 1.72 level in sympathy with its selloff against the yen. Despite the recent 25 basis point hike in the Fed funds rate in the U.S., the Bundesbank's delay in easing monetary policy has helped support the Deutschemark at a time when U.S.-Japan trade frictions have raised questions about U.S. exchange rate policy. We do not expect a cut in German interest rates until the March 3 or March 17 council meetings in light of recent data on M3 money growth showing money growth well above the Bundeshank's target range of 4.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent. Still, the outlook for inflation to moderate further looks excellent, especially if the recent wage agreement in the chemical sector sets a pattern for other settlements. The chemical agreement granted an effective increase of only 1.5 per cent. German industrial production fell by 2.1 per cent in November to a new cyclical low, suggesting that the economy is faltering again after two positive quarters in 1993. The west German economy contracted 1.9 per cent in 1993, the sbarpest decline in output

since the World War II. We continue to look for German 3-month money rates to fall to 4.0 per cent or less by the end of this year compared with 5.80 per cent currently. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.85, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD

1.80 level in 3 months. Technical view: The Deutschemark rallied 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 11. Medium term sentiment readings are near oversold and, while short term momentum has been deteriorating recently, medium term oscillators appear to have bottomed. All of this suggests that the currency is still engaged in a medium term bottoming process. Indeed, it would likely require weakness through the 1.79 DM/U.S.S area to negate the strengthening

Thus, even though the dominant long term trend remains down, we continue to believe that the immediate pressures in coming weeks should be to the upside. Nearby resistance is 1.73, them 1.68-1.69. The mark/yen cross has moved below 60, thereby making new multi-month lows. While momentum is oversold, the cross will have to move back up through the 62.50 over the next few weeks to reverse medium term momentum from down to up. In an environment where both individual currencies are expected to rally versus the U.S. dollar, 60 remains important support and resistance in the 65.50-66.50 range will be monitored for a potentially important breakout.

Pound Sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound rose to U.S.S/GBP 1.48 as the dollar plunged against the yen. But the pound fell to DM/GBP 2.55 due to expectations of another near-term U.K. hase rate cut coupled with increasing pessimism on an early German interest rate cut. Economic indicators released this week all point to a slowing economy: Unemployment showed an unexpected rise in January, industrial production in December was disappointing, and inflation was below ex-

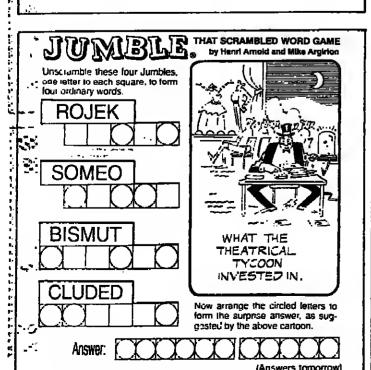
We continue to expect a 25 basis point U.K. rate cut in the second quarter to offset the impact of substantial tax increases on April 1. But we believe this will be the last cut in this cycle, By contrast, we expect short-term German rates to fall by 175 basis points in 12 months, pushing the pound up to DM/GBP 2.70. We expect the pound to depreciate to U.S.S/GBP 1.46 in 12 months. The Fed is likely to "snug" short-term rates by 25 basis points or more times this year as the U.S. economy maintains a healthy momentum.

Technical view: The British pound fell 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar last week and, for the second week in a row, was the weakest of the six major currencies we most regularly monitor. This resulted in a test of the low end of the eight-month long trading range. Sentiment is neutral-tooversold, but has been deteriorating. Short term momentum is weak and medium term oscillators now appear to be under pressure as well.

As a result, a decisive breakdown from the trading range (1.46 U.S.S/:) would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42. Along with sterling's weakness against the U.S. dollar, the DM cross-rate also moved lower last week to below 2.57. Since momentum remains weak, the probability of a test of 2.53-2.55 has increased.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glaabergen GIASRERGE MARRIAGE COUNSELOR "There are many ways to put the

sparks back. Try kissing with flint in your mouth.



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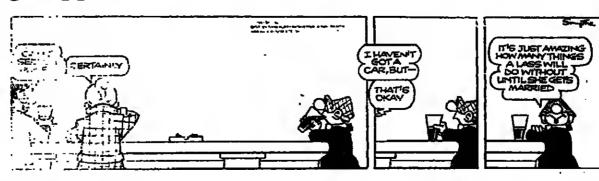








Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberge 1 Key letter S Actress Be 10 City on the 10 City on the June 14 Footnote abbr. 15 Cirilled 16 "The Red" 17 Money 19 McEnthre of music 20 Lower decks of ships 21 Most baffling 23 Oklahoma city 24 Morse of a certain polor certain color 25 Alrican capital 29 Chapeau type 32 Tribal post-37 Musical count 38 City in France 39 West 39 West 40 Approvioned 41 — man combai 42 Tempers 44 Raiph Waldo — 46 Numbus 47 Break a fast 48 Pergraine Yesterday's Pozzie Solved: 12 Meat entre \$1 Sense of taste 54 Gary or Moss 54 Gary or Moss 55 Lawn 58 River in France 59 Pomma de — 60 Came to earth 61 Outballed acronym 25 Large snake 26 Recoverable Recoverable goods throw 28 ERA and RBI - a custome seement 34 Native: suil. 37 Se a member of 38 Transport 40 Bamako's land 41 Repasts 43 Church festival DOWN 1 Gigantic 2 River of Spain 3 Stadium row 4 Austrakan city 5 Below normal 6 Memorable

EBRUARY 19, k

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Foreign investors enter Amman Financial Market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has given approval for more than a dozen European and American firms to deal in Jordanian stocks, and some of the companies have already started trading on the Amman Financial Market (AFM) floor, officials said brokers said Fri-

day.
"Some 15 companies have been given official approval to enter the AFM with a total investment of between JD 55 million and JD 60 million," said an official, who preferred anonymity.

The companies include Lehman Brothers of Britain and Citicorp of the United States. Lehman Brothers itself has said that it was planning to commit up to \$25 million into the AFM.

The official said: "Some of the companies have already come in a light way with limited commitment since early this month, and it will be some time before they commit large amounts.

"But large commitments are definitely coming, and this is going to have a major influence on AFM trading," added the official.

Brokers confirmed the account and said it was too early to judge the impact of the injection of new funds into the AFM, which lists nearly 115 companies with a total market value equity of JD 3.5 billion.

"The foreign companies, working through local counterparts, are feeling their way around," said a broker, who, in line with standing AFM regulations, spoke in exchange for anonymity. "It will be some time before one could see the direct effects of fresh foreign money entering the market."

In general, foreign investors were described, are more thorongh than local speculators. They will go through a close scrutiny of companies, in terms of balance sheet, profitability,

assets, management and performance over the years before committing funds," said the broker, adding that such an approach compares with local investors who often tend to react to short-term developments and middlemen's

However, the very fact that foreign investors are taking an active interest in entering the AFM evidences the vibrancy of the local bourse, which, despite its relatively small turnover, is assuming the reputation as one of the most open in the Middle East, following by its counterparts in Tunisia and

Regulations permit free transfer of earnings outside the country and foreign investors are free to deal the way they find it but short of take-over

Government regulations as well as condicions laid down by companies listed at the AFM are designed to preempt a foreign investor acquiring controling interest.

For instance, a foreign investor could buy shares first hand only after approval by the AFM as well as the concerned company, which may set its own "quota" for foreign capit-

In the case of shares already in the market, foreign investors are limited to buying them freely only if they are already in the possession of another foreign investor. They could buy sbares from Arab or Jordanian investors only with a prior, case-by-case approval from the market authorities

and the company concerned.

This arrangement means an effective controlling and monitoring mechanism for the AFM as well as the company itself to ensure that controlling interest does not fall into the hands of foreign investors.

Arab investors can trade freely in the market, but again under the quota ceilings set by the concerned companies. In

most cases, such quotas go up to as much as 49 per cent. The foreign interest in Jordanian stocks was also boosted by the progress in the

Arab-Israeli peace process.

economists sav.

There is a feeling among foreign investors that this time the peace process is serious and for real," said a senior banking official. "They believe that the Arab-Israeli negotiations have turned the point of no return, and the immediate effect of this is reduced fears of

Furthermore, the banker said. "the recent relaxation in regulations over foreign exchange transfers have also contributed to increasing investor confidence in the Jordanian

instability and insecurity in the

economy The JD 968 million turnover at the AFM in 1993 was a record when compared with the total market-value of the shares in the market.

The Tel Aviv bourse boasts of a daily turnover of \$130 million (around JD 90 million). Meanwhile, figures released

by the AFM showed that weekly volume continued a downward trend in what brokers described as a tempotary lull tesulting from a combination of factors.

Shares worth JD 11.3 million changed hands during the week ended Thursday, compared with JD 13.6 million in the previous week.

The banking sector conunued to dominate the trading, accounting for 52, 1 per cent of the volume, followed by the industries with 33 per cent, the services sector with 14.7 per cent and insurance companies with 0.2 per cent. Brokers noted that trading

during the week ending Feb. 9 declined 32 per cent as a result of security tears triggered by the Jan. 26 and Feb. 2 blasts at two cinema theatres and reports of other subversive plots. Those who stayed away

reassuring remarks by officials, but then the Holy Month of Ramadan started," said one broker. "During Ramadan, trading tends to decline since many participants believe that during that week have mostly it is sacrilege to indulge in

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Scenes demonstrate some of the daily activities that take place at the Amman Financial Market

where brokers are busy working out best prices for their clients (Photo by Ansley Floyd)



come back, particularly after trading volume will continue to decline through this month and next until the last day of Ramadan fasting.

speculation during the month."

According to the broker,

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"I expect a large turnover at the end of Ramadan just before 'Eid A! Fitr starts, when people would acquire shares and ride over the bolidays to come back and seek profits,' said the broker.

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(1) Markets Date: 17/2:1994

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Jordan Times

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

\$382,00/382,40

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday

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S. \$1.00 costs	1.3394/04
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ne sterling	\$1.4780/90

Canadian dollar **Deutschemarks Dutch** guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese ven Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

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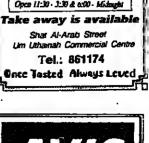














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Seoul: North-South dialogue must come before N. Korea- U.S. talks

SEOUL (AFP) - South Korean President Kim Young-Sam sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton Friday, stressing that an exchange of envovs between the two Koreas must come before any new round of high-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang, news reports said.

The reports said Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo. currently in Washington, had been charged with delivering the letter to Mr. Clinton before he returns to Seoul Friday. While stating that the

Seoul-Washington agreement... calls for a "thorough and broad" approach... President Kim is said to have reiterated that the two Korea's must exchange special envoys before the next North Korea-U.S. meeting." the national Yonhap

News Agency said. Speaking to Korean reporters in Washington Friday, Mr. Han clarified however that announcement of the date of a third round of Washington-Pyongyang talks could take place hefore the South-North envoy exchange, but only after inspections of the North's sus-

S. Africa

democracy

pect nuclear sites begins. International Atomic Ener-

gy Agency (IAEA) inspectors are expected to travel to North Korea within the coming week. after Tuesday's agreement by Pyongyang to accept inspec-tions of its declared nuclear

That agreement withheld commitment on investigations into two facilities which Pyongyang says are non-nuclear. but which Western and South Korean experts believe are used for processing and storing weapons-grade plutonium.

With regard to the issue of the deployment of Patriots missiles at U.S. bases in South Korea), the United States and South Korea have agreed not to discuss the issue until the IAEA board meeting is convened," Mr. Han told repor-

Asked whether there was any difference in opinion between Washington and Seoul over the deployment of the missile batteries, he said no decision had been made and it was not known whether General Gary E. Luck. commander of the 36,000 U.S.

forces in Korea, would repeat his request for them.

Nor, he added, was it yet clear whether such a request would be in accordance with South Korea's assessment of military needs.

"The situation now is not much different from a year ago - but then the situation was getting worse, and now there is progress," Mr. Han said when asked what difference there was between now and last March when Pyongyang first threatened to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

That threat drew Washington into talks with Pyongyang. with which it bas technically been at war since the 1950s, and led to North Korea returning to negotiations with the IAEA on Jan. 7.

Both Washington and Seoul have said that a decision on the holding of the annual joint South Korean-U.S. military exercise Team Spirit, tradi-nonally staged in March, is in obeyance, though Washington has said preparations for it are still underway.

U.S. military spokesman in

Seoul have said the preparations can be called off "at any

"The Team Spirit exercises were contingent upon progress we would make in resolving the nuclear question, and I think once the inspections are completed the exercises can be readjusted," Mr. Han said in an interview on CNN Televi-

Meanwhile, North Korea. fighting accusations it is secretly building nuclear weapons, sought Friday to turn the tables by accusing deadly rival South Korea of stockpiling enough plutonium to make 370 atomic bombs.

The Foreign Ministry in Pyongyang issued a memoran-dum calling on the South to scrap what the document called its nuclear weapons development programme and re-

move its plutonium stockpile. It also demanded that Seoul abandon its pressurised heavy water (PHWR) reactor at Wolsong, along with multi-purpose research reactors and postirradiation test facilities forming "an integral centre of the plutonium production.

Armenia shoots

YEREVAN (Agencies) — Armenia shot down an Azeri Sukhoi SU-24 ground attack aircraft over its territory and captured the pilot, a mercenary from Kyrgyzstan, the Armenian Defence Ministry said Friday.

The aircraft was one of two which Thursday strayed across the frontier in the eastern district of Vardeniz, near the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a ministry spokes-

spokesman in Baku had no immediate comment on the announcement.

Ministry spokesman, Gagik Martoyan, said two planes crossed into Armenian air space. Anti-aircraft units opened fire on the SU-24 as it apparently intending to attack.

25 reconnaissance plane, turned back to Azerbaijan, Mr. Martoyan said.

also baled out of the stricken plane but had come to ground in the northern part of Karabakh, which lies formally inside Azerbaijan, though under Armenian control.

Martoyan said details of his fate were still being sought.

Asian Republic of Kyrgyzstan for a free of \$1,000 per month plus \$300 per sortie to fly in the Azeri Air Force, Mr. Mar-

Armenia and Azerbaijan bave been fighting an undeclared war over Karabakh for the past six years. Thousands of people have been killed and tens of thousands, mainly

down Azeri jet

An Azeri Defence Ministry

The Armenian Defence The second intruder, a SU-

A second crew member had

The Armenian spokesman said the captured pilot was a 44-year-old Tatar named as Marat Ishkinovich.

He was hired in the Central tovan said.

Azeris, displaced.

The territory, mainly inhabited by Armenians, was given to Azerbaijan by the Kremlin

HUNGARY SLOVENIA ROMANIA . CROATIA VOJVODINA -Novi Sa YUGOSLAVIA Adriatic Sea MONTENEGRO - Republic boundary Autonomous MACEDONIA province boundary GREECE A **ITALY**

Athens: Macedonia blockade will be strictly applied

ATHENS (AFP) - Athens bas said that its blockade against Macedonia would be strictly applied at all customs points to all goods entering Greece bound for Skopje.

As queues of heavy goods vebicles built up at the main border post between Greece and Macedonia Thursday north of Salonika, a statement issued by the Finance Ministry said that Salonika customs officers would take charge of controlling all goods destined for Macedonia.

The statement came despite eriticism from some of Greece's European partners over the blockade announced Wednesday against Macedonnia in an increasingly bitter dispute over the name of the former Yugoslav republic.

But Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told Greek Television late Thursday that Athens had his "full support". The measures announced by

the Finance Ministry could lead to long delays for goods arriving in the ports of Kavala, east of Salonika, or Igoumenitsa in northwestern Greece, suspected of trying to reach Macedonia via Bulgaria or Albania.

Meanwhile in the Hague it was reported Thursday that Greece had also closed its land border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

Spokesman Djoeke Koekock said a number of trucks, including some registered in the Netherlands, had been stopped by Greek border guards from crossing into Macedonia at Evzoni.

Greek authorities denied the land border had been closed. The Greek press reported in Salonika that goods vehicle drivers were baving to comply with a wealth of administrative measures imposed by local customs officers confused by the sudden measures or acting out

of "patriotic zeal."
Two train loads composing 94 wagons carrying fuel and metal destined for Macedonia were also still being held up at the border post.

Greek Prime Minister

Andreas Papandreou announced the measures Wednesday adding that only humanitarian goods such as "food and medicines" were excluded from the blockade. Greece, which holds the

rotating presidency of the European Union (EU), said it had been constrained to make the move after the United States last week "erroneously" recognised Macedonia before the latter bad responded positively to Greece's demands, Greece accuses Macedonia

of usurping a name which Athens says is solely part of Greek heritage and of harbouring expansionist ambitions over the Greek province of the same name.

Britain, Denmark, Germany and Turkey all expressed concern about the decision announced Wednesday to bar the former Yugoslav republic access to the Greek port of Salonika, effectively strangling Macedoma's oil imports.

But Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic backed Greece Thursday calling the blockade a "wise decision."

Major, Reynolds to meet on Ulster peace process

LONDON (AFP) - Amid fresh violence in Northern Ireland, Prime Minister John Major of Britain and Albert Revnolds of Ireland meet here Saturday on their Ulster peace plan, still awaiting a response from Sinn Fein.

Before attending an England-Ireland rugby match in the afternoon, the premiers will meet at Mr. Major's Downing Street office with Irish Foreign Secretary Dick Spring and British Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Mayhew, a spokesman said.

At their last meeting, on Dec. 15, Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Major presented their Anglo-Irish joint declaration — the Downing Street Dec-laration — outlining an historic framework for peace in Ulster. That document notably offered Sinn Fein, political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA), a place at the negotiating table on condition the IRA renounced violence for at least three months.

The declaration does not exclude the principle of a unified Ireland, which the Catholicbased IRA wants. Bnt it guarantees that Bri-

tain would not cut Northern Ireland loose without the consent of the province's residents, the majority of whom are Protestant.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has asked for "clarification" of the declaration, neither accepting nor rejecting

Cambodian army reports

new

success PHNOM PENH (R) - Cambodia's government army has reported a new victory in its war against the radical Khmer Rouge guerrillas, the capture of a strategic border access point near the country's far-

north frontier with Thailand. "All the Khmer Rouge guerrillas have fled towards the border - they left behind some weapons and ammuninon," Cambodian army Chief of Staff Lientenant-General Ke Kim Yan told Reuters Friday. He said three government soldiers were wounded in the

The situation at Am Sess was currently quiet, said Cambodia's top military comman-

The key border access point, 300 kilometres north of Phnom Penh was formerly known as U.N. Checkpoint CT-1 and lies close to the border triangle of Laos, Thailand and Cambodia. There has been no independent confirmation of the government's claim but if true it is another military blow for the increasingly embattled Maoist

According to the government, more than 3,000 Khmer Ronge have defected to the government side since iast Au-

After threatening to disrupt the U.N.-organised May elections with violence, the Khmer Rouge has demanded an advisory government role while continuing to wage a low-intensity guerrilla war.

An increase in dry season fighting between the two protagonists has caused a stalemate to political negotiations aimed at accommodating the rebel demands.

On Feb. 5 Cambodian army units captured the strategic Khmer Rouge northern headquarters at Anlong Veng calling it the biggest military success since the holding of the elections.

Government army commanders earlier said that Arn Sess, used as a guerrilla firebase to shell outlying areas of Cham Khsan, was their next military was secured.

The border access point lies close to the ancient temple of Preah Vihear seized by Khmer Rouge guerrillas last July.

Preah Vihear provinces' governor, General Mean Sarin, told Renters that after the capture of Arn Sess, the next goal would be the recapture of Preah Vihear Temple. He said the notorious one-

legged guerrilla Commander Ta Mok had fled towards Trapaing Kol near the junction of the Cambodian, Lao and Thai

The capture of Arn Sess will relieve pressure on the besieged town of Cham Khsan. 28 kilometres south, and allow hundreds of displaced people to return to their homes, Mr. Sarin said.

While of little military significance, the capture of Preah Vihear Temple by the Khmer Rouge caused severe embarrassment to the government. Preah Vihear, practicably accessible only from Thailand,

is Cambodia's best known monument after the fabled 12th century temples of

Book blows up IRS for fun and profit

NEW YORK (R) - Novice author Bill Branon has the book world beaming and dreaming of huge sales with a first novel about terrorists blowing up the greatest American bureaucracy of them all the internal Revenue Service (IRS). Never mind that the plot of Let Us Prey doesn't thicken as much as make an occasional appearance or that its characters are as real as "bift" and "bam" comic book figures or that even its author can't explain what is going on. Getting rid of the taxman is an all-American dream and Branon, furious at the way the IRS bounded one of his sons for back taxes, appears to have tapped into an anger many. feel. The prestigious Book of the Month Club grabbed his book as an alternate selection. Harpercollins has put out a first printing of 10,000 huge figure for a hardback book - and Sylvester Stallone sent his chaufteur to the bookstore to see if this could be a vehicle worthy of "Rambo." The plot is all over the man involving hitmen modelled after Branon's sons, a raptist whose initials are IRS and a terrorist leader of an anti-tax revolt who blows up the real IRS's regional offices, when he finally makes his appearance almost halfway through the book. Branon admits. "the book doesn't read sensibly," but defends it as a mood piece out to show anger "in the land." An avid gambler exnavy dentist, intelligency operative, explosives expert and gun-nut. Branon is hitting the talk show circuit to tell the secret of his success -- do it all yourself until the big guys take

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Court orders release of India's 'bandit queen'

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The Supreme Court Friday ordered the release of parole of Phoolan Devi, India's notorious "bandit queen" who was ailed more than a decade ago for the massacre of 22 villagers to avenge her gang rape. Judges J. S. Verma and P.B. Sawant asked Ms. Davi, held in New Delhi's maximum security Tihar Central Jail, to put up a bond to gain her freedom after 11 years in prison. "We consider it appropriate to release her on parole pending the disposal of applications moved by the state government in various courts for withdrawal of (the) pro-secution against her," the judges said. They ordered the New Delhi Police to provide protection to the notorious outlaw after her release. Family members said she planned to live in the city, rather than go back to her village in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Ms. Devi, who is in her early 30s, allegedly materminded the massacre of 22 upper-caste Hindus on Feb. 14, 1981 in the Uttar Pradesh village of Behmai to avenge her rape by men from the village. Police say she was the leader of a bandit gang whose members shouted slogans hailing Devi after gunning down more than two dozen men on the edge of a river, several of them survived. Ms. Devi, who was in police uniform when she reportedly opened fire, was looking for two men who allegedly abducted and murdered her lover and raped her for days before she managed to give them the slip one night. The cold-blooded killings made her a houshold name in India and she went on a crime spree which terrorised the Chambal Valley, her exploits attracted worldwide attention and she was the subject of. several books and movies.

Bobbitt fathered child out of wedlock

NIAGRA FALLS, New York (AFP) — Blood tests strengthened a paternatity case filed against John Bobbitt by woman who said she dated him a year before his wife cut off his pennis. "John, this may be the only child you will ever have. Doesn't he deserve better from a father than lame and false denials?" appealed Beat-. rice Williams Thursday. Ms. Williams held a press conference is Niagra Falls. New York to announce DNA test results which give a 99.99 per cent likelihood that Bobbitt fathered her son, Andrew. It is uncertain yet whether Bobbitt. whose wife Lorena said she cut off his pennis for raping her, will be able to have children though doctors did manage to reattach the organ. Mr. Bobbitt's attorney said he might challenge the results and get his own genetics expert to disprove them.

Chinese plane hijacked to Taiwan, 11th since April

day, the 11th such hijacking since last April.

trial on air piracy charges but in a break with previous practice it forcibly sent the four family members who had travelled with him, his foster mother, wife and two sons aged eight and 10, back to China. Lin Wenqiang, 35, dressed

in the uniform of a Chinese policeman, used a fruit knife and a fake bomb, a teacup stuffed with toilet paper, to force a China Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 carrying 130 people to Taipei.

anthorities and requested asylum for himself and his family. The plane and its crew members and other passengers, including Mr. Lin's family, were sent back to China four hours

she was dragged back aboard the plane at Taipei's interna-

iackings.

aporeans as well as eight crew was on a domestic flight from the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu to Fuzhou in the southeast when it was hijaeked. Nobody was injured. Mr. Lin's profession was un-

clear as he carried several busi-

him to open a company. Fourteen Chinese asylum-

seekers bijacked planes to Taiwan in the ten previous incidents. Taipei's refusal to repatriate them has become a major source of tension between Taiwan and China, political enemies since the civil war ended in 1949. "The hijacking damages re-

lations between the two sides... hijacking is a serious crime in Taiwan and we cannot tolerate it," Taiwan's Vice Justice Minister Chiang Hao said. Four rounds of bilateral

talks have failed to reach agreement on a pact under which Taiwan would send the hijackers back. The two sides will resume talks in Beijing in late March. Meanwhile, the Internation-

al Airline Passengers Association (IAPA) has said to take a plane m China is to dice with Colombia, strongly criticised

by the IAPA, pales in comparison to China, added the association in its latest bimonthly Travel Safety Alert newsletter. "Even if you are enough of a

daredevil to fly in Colombia on a stormy night, don't fly in China," said IAPA, which listed eight plane crashes in China in Ig months.

erything right yesterday, the problems could not be solved in 1994 or even by the end of the century," commented

country's air traffic control system was primitive, qualified pilots and engineers were in short supply, maintenance poor and security non existent. David Sempler, IAPA's ex-

reveal China had one accident per 100,000 domestic flights compared to one per 200,000 in Colombia and India and one per 250,000 in South Korea.

safest major airlines as American Airlines, British Airways, Delta, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines and Southwest.

Airlines International and All-

forum to meet Monday JOHANNESBURG (R) -Sou: riea's multi-party democracy negotiating forum

is to me... Nonday to consider amendments to the interim constitution aimed at averting a coveout by conservatives of April's first all-race elections. ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said Friday the African National Congress and the government had agreed to a Monday meeting of

the forum at the World Trade Centre where the interim constitution was thrashed out over two years. Faxes are being sent out to all political parties... invitations will go to all parties that were part of the negotiating

council at one stage or another," he told a news brief-These would include the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, the Ciskei and Bophuthatswana black home-

lands and the white Afrikaner Volksunie (AVU), all of which quit the talks in protest last Mr. Ramaphosa said the

forum was expected to discuss a constitutional package proposed by the government and the ANC to draw the Freedom Alliance of separatist whites and autonomy-seeking black

bomeland leaders into the April 26-28 elections. Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi dismissed the prop-osals outlined by ANC Presi-

dent Nelson Mandela Wednesday as "ebeap politicking." But they have drawn a more guarded response from his allies in the right-wing alliance who have asked for more de-

Mr. Ramaphosa said the ANC was willing to discuss its proposals with the Freedom Alliance. "We are prepared to look at what their response is and sit down and see what else needs to be done for an allinclusive settlement," he said. He said the standing com-

mittee of parliament was expected to meet next Wednesday, and parliament itself would likely reconvene on Feb. 28 or March I to discuss amendments to the interim constitution it passed in December. It would also have to amend

the electoral act to allow for separate ballots for the national and provincial legislatures in April instead of a single ballot and allow more time for parties to register. Mr. Ramaphosa said the

ANC had held a bilateral meeting with the government Thursday and they were meeting again Friday to "formalise" the package.

The ANC was also meeting the white right-wing Afrikaner

People's Front (AVF) Friday, the AVF has demanded a Volkstaat — white homeland - for Afrikaners. In a further bid to bring all sides into the election, Mr. Ramachosa said the ANC was setting up a meeting with Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini to

discuss demands made to the

government earlier this week.

including a separate Zulu

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gamsakhurdia's body flown to Chechnya

MOSCOW (AFP) - The body of former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who committed suicide in December, was flown to Gronzy — the capital of the Russian Republic of Chechnya — Thursday after being exhumed, the agency Interfax reported. Earlier his body had been identified in Senaki in western Georgia after having been exhumed from a grave in the courtyard of a house in the village of Jikhaskari. close to Zugdidi. Representatives from Lithuania, Georgia. Chechnya and Ingushetia attended the identification, requested by the family, which was carried out by three Georgian doctors. ITAR-TASS said. Mr. Gamsakhurdia committed suicide on Dec. 31, but his wife, Manana, still lives in Gronzy, the Chechen capital. There have been conflicting reports on Mr. Gamsakhurdia's death. and where he was buried. He was a personal friend of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, and became Georgia's first democratically-elected president in May 1991, winning 87 per cent of the vote. He killed himself after the failure of an armed uprising by supporters known as Zviadists in western Georgia against Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

Nepalese premier asked to resign

KATHMANDU (AFP) - Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has been asked by the head of his party to step down as Nepal's prime minister, a highly placed source in his Nepali Congress (NC) Party said Friday. The NC Party President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai had advised Mr. Koirala to resign from office following days of protests against the prime minister over his handling of recent by-elections, the source said. If Mr. Koirala does not resign by Sunday, a party committee will take disciplinary action which would automatically lead to his expulsion from the party, it added.

Indonesia quake death toll hits 186

LIWA. Indonesia (AFP) - The death toll from a strong earthquake that shook the south Sumatra province of Lampung early Wednesday has risen to 186 people, with more than 2,000 injured, according to the relief centre here. Statistics on the relief centre board show 186 dead and 2,389 others injured, 1,016 seriously. The powerful quake also damaged 5,109 houses, 109 schools, 111 buildings of worship, 19 district health centres. destroyed 15 bridges and 34-kilometres (21 miles) of road. West Lampung district chief Umpu Singa said damage was estimated to reach 117 billion rupiah (\$55 million). Aftershocks continue to shake the area, but according to an official at the Meteorological Office. Engkon

Kertapati, the magnitudes were in the range of 2.5 to three on the Richter Scale.

India agrees to ICRC survey in Kashmir GENEVA (AFP) - India has allowed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRCI to visit the strife-torn northern state of Kashmir for humanitarian purposes, a spokesman said Friday. "The Indian authorities have invited the ICRC to carry out a mission in the near future to Jammu and Kashmir to assess the humanitarian situation." according to the Geneva based organisation. The visit was arranged on Feb. 9 during a meeting in New Delhi between the Indian Home Secretary N.N. Vohra, and ICRC delegate general for Asia Jean-Michel Monod. It was agreed that the ICRC would propose dates for the mission, which will first deal with the protection of civilian populations. The New Delhi meeting immediately followed "an ICRC seminar on international humanitarian law for senior officers of Indian police and paramilitary forces in Hyderabad." according to the Red

11 die in Philippine carnival blast COTABATO, Philippines (R) - Eleven revellers were killed and 23 wounded Friday when a hand grenade was tossed into a fun fair crowded with hundreds of people, police in the southern Philippines said. Almost simultaneously, a homemade bomb exploded outside the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) offices in another southern city but no one was hurt. The carnival blast in Isulan town near Cotabato City was the second major bombing attack in the troubled southern region of Mindanao, 800 kilometre south of Manila, in two months. Six people were killed when suspected Muslim extremists bombed a Roman Catholic cathedral in the main Mindanao city of Davao at Christmas. Police Commander Akmad Mamalinta said the fun fair in Isulan was packed with hundreds of revellers celebrating ahead of the town's religious fiesta when the grenade exploded shortly before 1 a.m. As the crowd scrambled for their lives, parts fell from some of the rides, causing more injuries. Some of the injured were

Fujimore swears in new cabinet

trampled in the stampede, witnesses said.

LIMA (AFP) - President Alberto Fujimore swore in a new cabinet Thursday following a cabinet crisis sparked by his handling of a high profile human rights case. Prime Minister Alfonso Bustamente resigned Wednesday following a dispute with Mr. Fujimori over a controversial law to move the trial of army troops charged with kidnapping and killing nine students and a lecture as part of a anti-Shining Path crackdown in July 1992. A general three colonels, two majors, one captain and one lieut-nant had been scheduled to go before a civilian court hut fought to go before military authorities instead in hopes of a more sympathetic hearing. A law moving the trial was passed on Feb. 10. despite bitter opposition, as the Supreme Court deliberated over which court had jurisdiction.

TAIPEI (Agencies) - A Chinese asylum-seeker posing as a policeman and accompanied by his family hijacked a Chinese airliner to Taiwan Fri-

Taiwan detained the man for

He surrendered to Taiwan

Mr. Lin's wife, Huang Chunmian, 32, screamed and struggled with police officers as

tional airport. It was the first time in the string of hijackings that Taiwan had forcibly repatriated family members not accused of air piracy. Two young sons of hijackers had remained in Taiwan after previous hi-

The airliner, carrying 122 passengers including two Sing-

ness cards, officials said. One identified him as a sales manager at an electric appliance firm in the central Chinese city of Changsha, another as a sales manager for China's "reform tbrough labour" penal camp

Officials quoted Mr. Lin as saying he wanted to escape corruption in China and hijacked the plane after Chinese authorities made it difficult for

"If China started doing ev-

The Association said the

ecutive director, said figures The association listed the

Safe mid-sized carriers included Ansett Australia, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Canadian suon la

NEWS IN BRIEF

^{Σο}նել՝ լերթան yenables includes Robson in his staff

y of them a LONDON (R) — England's new manager Terry Venables evenue Sen named former international captain Bryan Robson in a mind that backroom staff of three for the rest of the season Friday.

S Prev & Alongside Robson, who at 37 still commands a place in S Prey do Alongside Robson, who at 37 still commands a place io has make Manchester United's first team squad, Venables picked arane by the squade of the sq Parance of the appointments are all part-time and temporary until the end of a province of the season when Venables, who took over from the unsuccesse of the season when Taylor last month, will make more permanent are is such plans for the next two years. Venables will bave Robson and lat is going plans for the next two years. Venables will bave Robson and le taxing plans for the next two years. Venables will bave Robson and le taxing plans for the next two years. Venables will bave Robson and le taxing plans for the next two years. Venables will bave Robson and le taxing plans for the next two years. Venables will bave Robson and le taxing plans for the next two years. Venables will bave Robson and le taxing plans for the next two years. Venables will bave Robson and le taxing plans for the next two years. ream and be at his side when be makes his debut in a friendly international he way the against European champions Denmark at Wembley March 9.

Pears to be Harding Olympic doubt

a anger the LILLEHAMMER (AFP) — American Tonya Harding, igious Boot though expected to compete, has a right ankle injury which mate selector threatens her Olympie chances. The American figure skating las the champion seemed to be troubled Friday when landing oo her than the champion seemed to be troubled Friday when landing oo her than the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing on her than the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing on her than the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing on her than the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing on her than the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing on her than the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing to the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing to the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing to the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing to the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be troubled friday when landing the champion seemed to be champion to the champion seemed to be champion to the champion the cha the put of champion seemed to be troubled Friday when landing oo her 10,000 right ankle, which she slightly twisted in Thursday's training. or a hards. An annoyed Harding, allegedly involved in an attempt to livester State cripple rival Nancy Kerrigan Jan. 6, hit the side of the rink in to the body several times while talking to her coaches.

of "Rambo Barbecue at Olympic flame foiled

modeled LILLEHAMEMR (R) — Barbecue buffs have been told by ons, a most organisers to stop grilling sausages over the Olympie stame. of an anti-Lillehammer games official Odd Ustad said Friday security of an anish had been tightened around the flame, burning at the top of a life to 20-metre high tower at Olympia park, after reports of illicit fines, what 20-metre high tower at Olympia park, after reports of illicit offices, where "danger" barbecues at dead of night. "We heard that two or as appeared three young guys grilled sausages on the flame one might," he through it said. "We're not sure how they did it. They must have had admit a said." admits be spears 20 metres long, I suppose. What we do know is that there ead seasily will be no more grill parties at the flame. We've tightened as a most. s a mood per security round there so it can't happen again." In 1988 at anger "in & Calgary, sports pans and games volunteers used the Olympic gambler a flame to cook hot dogs and toast marshmallows.

ves expert at n is hitting to Coloradan, Australian win Empire State uit to sell's run up

e big 即收收 NEW YORK (AP) — AColorado chemist and an Australian high school teacher won the men's and women's divisions of the Empire State building run up Thursday. The chemist, rs release Darrin Eisman of Golden, Colo., dashed up 80 flights of stairs in 9 minutes, 37 seconds. The teacher, triathlete Belinda Soszyn, 39, of Bangor, Australia, made the trip in 11 minutes, 57 seconds. The 17th annual run up featured 127 participants from eight nations and 15 states. This year's run up was limited (AFP) - 1 to 80 flights because of a construction project at the 86th floor Finday order observatory. Bringing up the rear was Chico Scimone of palok a Taormina, Sicily, in 23 minutes, 20 seconds. He is 82 years old. India's no The run up is sponsored by the Empire State building and the seen" whom New York Road Runners Club. a decade a:

of 22 village r gang ng. 1st American skiing medalist dead

erma and P.E SUN VALLEY, Idaho (AP) - Gretchen Fraser, the first vis. Davi, he ds. Dav, he American to win an Olympic gold medal for sking, died i's maint. Thursday, She was 75. A spokeswoman for the Sun Valley Co. said Fraser died of natural causes at the Wood River Medical to gain he Centre after being taken there Wednesday. "She was cross years in pi country skiing with a friend just a week ago," spokeswoman ler it appose Shannon Besoyan said. Fraser won the gold medal for the her on part special slalom at the 1948 games in St. Monitz, Switzerland, isposal of P. The event is known today as the giant slalom. Fraser also took d by the 2 the silver medal in the combined slalom and downbill. She had various and lived in Son Valley with her husband, Don, who was a member of (the) of the United States Alpine team and won a gold medal in the let ber. 2 Pan Ain games in Chile in 1936. He died in January 1993 at ey ordered age 8.

her releast Vasio and Fiuminense investment pays off

he div. 1861 RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) - The million dollar her ville investments made by Vasco and Fluminense to purchase tate of Um players have paid of. Both teams stand atop their divisions in evi, who st the Rio league at the Carnival break with undefeatedly records legedly me through three rounds. Vasco sought national team defenseassacre of man Ricardo Rocha from Santos and the sensational midfieladus on ha der Denner from the Sao Paulo Portugue a souard. Denner Uttar Praise and Vasco striker Valdier are being considered by manager nai to aves Carlos Alberto Parreira for spots on the World Cup team.
nen from & Flumineuse bought veteran defenseman Branco from Southay she was em Brazil's Gremio, and former Brazilian team starting ay sing midfielder Luiz Henrique from Monaco of the French league.

GOREN BRIDGE

- WITH OMAR SHARIF

Both vuinerable. North deals.

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Opening lead: Nine of 4
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nether Book of na said she of raping her did have children did manage said he might sa

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71983 TiBune Media Services In 4-4 OR 5-2 FIT?

We first met 'Tim Seres at the 1964 World Bridge Olympiad in New York when he spearheaded

Australia's strong challenge for a place in the semifinals. Then a ge-nual 40, the Hungarian-born acc imnual 40, the Hungarian-born ace im-pressed everyone with his skill. Now almost 30 years later, it is a pleasure to report that he can still compete at the top level. He was recently a member of the winning. team in the Australian Spring Na-tional Ocean Teams Champingship. ional Opeo Teams Championship. Seres held the South cards on this key hand from the final of that tounament. We were not given the aucstrong no trump, showed a hand with four hearts and three spades and a cue-bidding sequence left Seres with the decision of what to do. A possible sequence, using Iwo

nds as forcing Stayman, 16 As we would have expected, Seres demonstrated that his judgment was as sharp as ever by budding six was able to discard two hearts on North's dismonds and 12 tricks rolled in. Note that, at a heart con-tract, declarer must lose a trump and the ace of spades

Tel.: 634144

Preparations for holding Jordan Jansen overcomes Olympic jinx International Rally underway

By Aleen Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Detailed preparations for one of the most prestigious of the Kingdom's sporting events - the Jordan International Rally — are already underway and organisers, the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) are encouraged by a vast interest from participants, the media and sponsors

The rally, which forms one of the five rounds of the Middle East Rally Championship will be, as always, a two-day event held May 12 and 13 and covering 981 kilumetres that will take enmpetitors from Jerash in the north to Petra in the south.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein is scheduled to give the start signal as competitors set off from the Roman Amphitbeatre in downlown Amman for the first leg of the rally that will take them northwards on asphalt roads for a route of 341 kilometres including 99 kilometres of 12 special stages testing the skill of even the most seasoned competitors as they drive through forest and groves forming one of the most scenic parts of Jordan.

The second leg of the rally will set off Friday morning from rally headquarters at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman beading southwards for a gruelling 64I kilometres drive encompassing 300 kilometres of II special stages that will determine the eventual winner of the raily expected to be completed at 8.15 p.m.

LILLEHAMMER. Norway (AP) - Norwegians claim

they're born wearing skis, and

it's only a slight exaggeration:

First farays on cross-country

skis usually follow first steps in

The sport is to Norwegians-

what basehall is to the United

States, what soccer is to south-

ern Europeans and Latin

Americans maybe even what

"It is definitely a love affair," said cross-country

skier Vegard Ulvang, a triple

Olympic gold medallist and a

"Everyone skis. It is our

People in Norway do cross-

national sport," Ulvang said.

country, not just in competi-

tion, but all the time. Whole

families. People have a very

personal relationship to cross-

Whole families, toddlers in-

cluded, don cross-county skis

for Sunday tours near their

homes and vacations in the

Foreigners out touring can

usually accept being passed by

a strong young Norwegian -

wine is to the French.

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country skiing."

mountains.

The 13th Jordan International Rally will again bring together the region's top drivers in addition to foreign com-petitors from Ireland, England, France, Cyprus, Russia and Romania

RACI officials seem very encouraged by the fact the main sponsor of the rally is Camel — one of the major brand names associated with motor sports worldwide.

"Camel is a prestigious name in motur sports, and we are very happy to be associated with them," RACJ director Derek Ledger told a press conference Thursday. Ledger also said it was very

gratifying that a majnr Jordanian company is supporting the event, referring to the fact that Camel, one of the main spon-sors of the World Championship Formula 1, is about to be manufactured in Jordan hy the Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette Co. in a joint venture with R.J. Reynolds Tobacco

RACJ officials are hopeful that the Jordan International Rally will soon form one of the 10 rounds of the World Rally Championship and the interest shown by representatives from the International Automobile Federation (FIA) following up the development of the Jordan Rally throughout the years is most promising.

"The Jordan International Rally's reputation as the best rally of the Middle East is undisputed. We are looking at the World Championship, which will be the pinnacle of our achievements," Mr. Led-

This year, FIA's Ricardo

Skiing is just slightly less

important than walking in Norway

even children. But some find it

hard to take when seniors glide

past, effortless style making up

from the Norwegian "sla,"

which means slope, and

"laam." for the track down.

though Norway refused to

accept slalom as a sport until

Here, anything on skis is

fine: Alpine, freestyle, snow-

boards, the biathlon. But

cross-country is the real thing.

pected at men's cross-country

races in Lillehammer that

Ulvang's teammate and rival

Bjorn Dahlie - another triple

gold medallist at the 1992 win-

ter games — is wnried.
"I don't think anyone has

seen so many spectators be-fore," said Dahlie, "Maybe the

transportation and the people

will be a problem, when there

Skiers have been among

"People understand how

tough it is to race a 50-kilometre," said Lillehammer

Norway's heroes for thousands.

are 100,000, maybe 200,000,"

of years.

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So many Norwegians are ex-

The word "slalom" comes

the years.

Cecci of Italy, one of the five officials who specialise in the world championship rallies, will be the official inspector of the rally.

For the first time FIA has appointed a technical delegate to a Middle East rally. Jaako Markmla of Finland will be in charge of technical scrutineering to ensure that all competing cars comply with the standards and regulations required in such an international rally.

The Committee of International Stewards — the body that judges all aspects of the rally and interperts the rules and regulations — will be headed by Wilhelm Lyding, president of the German Motor Sports Federation. The Committee will also include Christos Kyriakides of Cyprus and FIA Vice President Alec Dardoufas of the Automobile and Touring Club of Greece

The fact that the rally plays an important role in presenting Jordan to the world is also a main factor of the rally's role and success

Action Pool, a leading Belgian media consultancy company will be the European representatives of the rally and will ensure the coverage of the event on the Eurosport programme, the NBC Superchannel and Belgian national televi-

Press representatives urged RACJ as well as their sponsors, including Royal Jordanian, Aramex, Camel, the Forte Grand, and many others to support Jordanian drivers to enable a Jordanian competitor to win the event for the first

Olympic Organising Commit-

tee Sports Director Martin

Skiing as a sport is not much

Norwegians started skiing

thousands of years ago because

it was easier than slogging

around in 1-metre (3-foot)

If pressed, they admit they

probably were not the first.

That distinction likely belongs

to the Lapp, or Sami, reindeer

herders of Arctic Scandinavia

here, and after a few thousand

years was so popular that pre-

historie Norwegian artists were

carving pictures of skiers on

rocks. One such 4.000-year-old

work as the model for all the

tiek-figure event symbols

The early Norwegians

avelled on skis, hunted on

skis and mounted Viking

armies on skis. When the rifle

was invented, the army started

shooting on skis, which led to

the biathlon.

But skiing caught on early

more than 150 years old.

as Italy shines in luge doubles LILLEHAMMER, Norway

(AP) — U.S. speedskater Dan Jansen overcame his Olympic jinx in world record style Friday, and Italy shot feet-first into second place of the Lillehammer medals race.

Also an the seventh day of the games. Canada's Myriam Bedard became the first North American to win an Olympic biathion gold medal. The 28-year-old Jansen en-

ded a 10-year Olympie drought by capturing gold in the men's I.000-metre race at the Viking Hall in Hamar.

His arms outstretched like winged victory, Jansen flew across the finish line in 1 minute, 12.43 seconds, trimming 11 off the mark Canada's Kevin Scott set in December.

"I don't know what to say," Jansen said while his wife, Robin, sobbed for joy. "It felt so good. There's so many people here behind me. Thaok you so much.

Jansen had a scare with about 600 metres left. He skidded on a turn, but saved himself with his left hand grazing the ice and put on an extra burst of speed at the finish. Gliding to a halt, the American victor clutched bead, as much in relief as in elation.

It took four winter games and eight Olympic races for Jansen to win a place on the victory stand.

More remembered for bis two falls at the 1988 Calgary Games than for his more than 30 World Cup victories, Jansen was a disappointing eighth in Sunday's 500-metre sprint — a race in which slipped but did not fail.

Igor Zhelezovsky of Belarus was second in 1:12,72 and Sergei Klevehenya of Russia was third in 1:12.85. Thanks to a one-two finish in

the men's luge doubles, Italy moved one-up on bost Norway with 10 medals overall. However, the Norwegians, tally included five golds to the Italians' three.

Russia continued to lead with a total of 13 medals, including five golds and five silvers.

Norway took a step toward another old wben Fred Borre Lunderg won the jump portion of the Nordie combined Friday. He soared 92.5 and 92 metres in his two jumps for a total score of 247.0, including style points. The Norwegian earned a 23-

seeond lead over Estonia's Ago Markvardt in Saturday's 15-kilometre cross-country portion that will decide the gold medal. Two days after Italy's Gerda

Weisseosteiner won the women's solo event, teammates Kurt Brugger and Wilfried Huber gave the Italians their secood luge gold medal of the games with a combined time of one minute, 36,720 seconds in the men's doubles. Hansjorg Raffl and Norbert



Italians Kurt Brugger and Wilfried Huber speed through the Olympic ice rink during the first run of men's luge double event in Hunderfossen Friday. They took gold clocking a time of 1:36.720 ahead of their compatriots Hansjeerg Raffl and Norbert Huber who won silver (AFP)

Huber — the 1992 bronze medalists took silver .049 of a second off the pace. Bronze went to the 1992 defending champions Stefan Krausse and Jan Behrendt of Germany.

"Everyone's very happy in our house," Norbert Huber said of the gold-and-silver brother act. Italy's luge medalists, bilingual in Italian and German. Hail from Bolzano in northestern Italy. The region formerly known as the south Tyrol belonged to Austria before World War I.

"We bad a stupendous second rup, and with that we won the medal," said Wilfried Huber, who rode feet-first down the course sandwiched between Brugger and the sled. Bedard, a 24-year-old French-Canadian from the

Province of Quebee, captured

the opening 15-kilometre hiathlon event, 46.7 seconds ahead of France's Anne Briand, took silver and Germany's Ushi: Disl the hronze. Nathalie Santer of Italy, the

World Cup leader, finished a disappointing 25th after eight misses on the rifle range. It was Canada's second gold in the Lillehammer Olympics.

Both bave come in events that premiered at the Albertville Games two years ago. A Canadian freestyle skier - Jean-Lue Brassard — won the men's moguls ebampionship Wednes-

Men's biathlon, which combines cross-country skiing with marksmanship, was introduced to the winter games at Squaw Valley. Califlornia, in 1960 — 32 years before the women's competition was added.

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The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan, organiser of the JORDAN RALLY scheduled for 12-13 May 1994, invites all those with four wheel drive (4x4) vehicles who would like to oin us in the running of the rally to contact the club.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Leftist leader arrested in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) - The Tunisian authorities have arrested Hamma Hammami, fugitive leader of the banned Communist Workers' Party (POCT), official sources said Friday. Mr. Hammami, arrested last week in the coastal town of Sousse, was sentenced in absentia by a court in the southern city of Gabes last year to 57 months in jail on charges of setting up an illegal association and spreading false information. Defence lawyers said he would appear in court on Feb. 23 to answer charges of rebellion, attacking the police officer who arrested him and falsifying an identity card. The defence also plans to challenge the Gabes verdict. The official sources also said lawyer Abdul Rahman Al Hani bad been arrested and charged with constitution of an illegal association and spreading of defamatory and false information. Mr. Hani was arrested on Friday and accused of setting up a hitherto unknown group called Talaee Al Wahdah (vanguards of unity). His son, Ziad, arrested at the same time, was freed on Monday.

3 shot at Sinn Fein Belfast office

BELFAST (R) — Protestant gunmen shot and wounded three workers on Friday in the second attack in a week on the Belfast headquarters of Sinn Fein, Irish Republic Army's (IRA) political wing. The outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), a shadowy group which says it is fighting attempts to unite Northern and Ireland, claimed responsibility for the attack. It took place as Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds was flying to London for weekend talks with his British counterpart, John Major, about an Anglo-Irish peace initiative to end 25 years of conflict in Northern Ireland. Police said one worker, who was on a ladder, was shot in the stomach and legs. The other two were hit in the legs and all three were taken to a hospital. The attack was mounted the day after the IRA ambushed a police vehicle in Belfast, killing a policeman, the first security officer to die in the Northern Ireland conflict

Gang warfare claims 7 in St. Petersburg

MOSCOW (R) - Police discovered seven bullet-riddled corpses wrapped in canvas and dumped in a Mercedes limousine before dawn on Friday in Russia's gangster-ridden second city, St. Petersburg. Itar-Tass news agency qnoted police as saying they stumbled on the bodies after stopping a small Zhiguli car which was towing the luxury Mercedes through the streets of the old imperial capital at three a.m. (midnight GMT). The massacre victims were lying in the back and boot of the Mercedes, with a pistol-toting Tajik sitting in front. An unemployed 20-year-old man was driving the scruffy Zhiguli and the boss of a St. Petersburg commercial firm was in the passenger seat. Russia's new capitalist businesses are widely seen as fronts for mafia gangs, TASS said an investigation was now underway into the latest killings in St. Petersburg, a city of once-glamorous palaces now decaying beside polluted canals. Its streets are packed with sleazy salesmen, sinister bustles and nervous police.

Germany halts trial against Latvia

MUENSTER, Germany (R) — The trial of a World War II Latvian police commander, accused of Nazi war crimes, was suspended on Friday because of the defendant's poor health. Boleslav Maikovskis, who was sentenced to death in absentia by the Soviet, Union, denied during a four-year trial in the German city of Muenster that be bad taken part in the massacre of 170 people in Nazi-occupied Latvia 52 years ago. Maikovskis had also been accused of ordering the hanging of a Latvian Jew. Presiding Judge Heinz Bernd Lange said the trial against the 90-year-old Lativan exile was effectively over after medical evidence indicated the defendant would probably suffer a beart attack if the case continued.

'Russians could detect Stealth bomber'

MOSCOW (R) - A senior Russian military official was quoted on Friday as saying his forces' radar would have no problem detecting the U.S. B-Stealth bomber, hailed by its makers as the "invisible aircruft." First Deputy Defence Minister Andrei Kokoshin told the liberal newspaper Sevodnya he saw, for Russia, two options to the advanced and expensive technology used in building the B-2. Low-flying cruise missiles which evade radar were "cheaper and preferable." At the same time "it is possible by cheaper methods to make normal aircraft more invisible (to radar) and considerably increase their combat effectiveness," Mr. Kokoshin said, The black-bodied, multirole heavy B-2 which resembles a bat wing, has been praised by the U.S. Air Force as a dramatic leap in aircraft technology because of its design, which is fuel-efficient and barely detectable by enemy radar. It had heen vaunted as the most sophisticated weapon in the U.S.

Diplomat denies attack on Kim Jong-IL

BANGKOK (AFP) - The North Korean ambassador to Thailand Friday strongly denied reports that Kim Jone-II. son of North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung. had been the victim of a recent attack. "It's completely groundless," the amhassador, Li Do-Sop, said as he left a meening on Asian security here. "It is completely imaginary as our people deeply respect our dear leader very highly," he added. The ambassador's denial came after a South Korean opposition leader — citing unnamed "foreign" sources — Thursday alleged that the younger Kim had suffered serious injuries as a result of an attack. The reports followed the absence of the North Korean number two at celebrations for his birthday in Pyongyang. Kim Jong-II. 52, is widely seen as the heir to his 81-year-old father, who has ruled the communist north since the regime was founded in

UAE steps up crackdown of begging

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) bas decided to crack down on begging in the fasting month of Ramadan, in a bid to protect the country's image. Police have stepped up patrols in public places while municipalities are sending inspectors to mosques and other places to arrest beggars, officials said. "Begging gives a negative image of UAE society. It also annoys people during Ramadan." said Obaid Al Shamsi, director of administrative affairs at Dubai Municipality. "We have intensified our effors to curb this phenomenon as beggars usually increase their activities during Ramadan. We consider them as violators of the law and they should be deported," he told Al-Bayan newspaper. Begging is banned in the UAE, where the per capita income of around \$18,000 is among the highest in the world. Ramadan. which this year staned last week, is the time that police step up the fight against beggars. The authorities say many expatriates. especially Asians, come in on visitors' visas to cash in on Ramadan, when devout Muslims are called up to give alms to the poor. A crackdown in 1993 netted 285 beggars in Dubai and 145 in Sharjah. Around 417 beggars were also arrested in the two emirates in 1992, and 517 in 1991, according to official

Death of Israeli builder an accident

TEL AVIV (AFP) -- The death of an Israeli worker on a huilding site in the southern city of Ashdod on Thursday was an accident and not murder, a police spokesman said. Police had earlier said a Palestinian worker battered him tu death with a brick. But an investigation found that the Israeli, an emigrant from the former Soviet Union, was knocked down by a block which fell off an apartment under construction, the

Bosnian Serbs pledge to abide by NATO deadline; U.N. awaits proof

LUKAVICA (AFP) — Bosnian Serbs pledged on Friday to withdraw or place under U.N. control all heavy weapons around Sarajevo ahead of a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) deadline, but U.N. officials said they were still waiting for concrete evidence that the Serbs were carrying out their promise.

As pressure huilt up ahead of the ulnmatum, which expires at midnight GMT on Sunday, Russia said it wanted an international conference on Bosnia to be held next week.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, speaking here after talks with U.N. special envoy for the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi, said all Serb heavy weapons around Sarajevo would be put under "effective" U.N. control by Saturday midnight (2300 GMT), beating the NATO deadline by 25 hours.

It was the most unequivocal statement yet by the Serb leader that bis forces would comply fully with the ultimatum to pull beavy artillery beyond a 20kilometre Sarajevo exclusion zone, place it under U.N. supervision, or face attack.

13 Britons

detained in

Somali row

LONDON (Agencies) — Thir-

teen Britons have been held

since Wednesday in Hargeisa,

northwest Somalia, by armed

locals in a dispute over wages.

the Foreign Office said here.

firm Rimfire International.

which employs both Britons

and Somalis and is working on

a United Nations project, said the men were being held be-

cause of a disagreement involv-

ing Somalia and the U.N.

umbrella organisation UN-

OSOM. which sets wages and

A United Narions teport

"This is a complicated dis-

said 50 foreign workers were

heing confined to residences.

pute involving local political

factors. Rimfire International

and our contractors are caught

in the middle of a difficult

situation which is not of our

making, company director

Rimfire operates in warrorn

areas and former, trouble spots

around the world, clearing

miners and loose explosives in

order that people can move

back to the areas from refugee

camps. It works closely with

the U.N. and the U.N. High

In the past year in northwest

Somalia the company has re-

moved 100,000 mines from one

million square metres of land.

as part of a £2.5 million (\$3.1)

U.N. spokesman George

Bennett said local leaders are

having trouble with demobil-

ised militiamen and the

Egagele clan which entrols the

airport." press association

The Foreign Office spokes-

man said the dispute arose late

on Wednesday after a number

of Rimfire's Somalia's em-

ployees became angry during a

The men are being held in a

A week ago, two British

lawmakers were abducted by

clan gunmen while inspecting

aid projects in nearby Erigavo.

They were released within 24

hours after a local doctor inter-

Hargeisa is in the self-

proclaimed Somaliland repub-

lic in northwest Somalia.

compound in Hargeisa, he

row over wage payments.

million) annual contract.

Commission for Refugees.

Greg Wales said.

The British mine-clearance

already convoys and convoys, and we will withdraw even more," said Mr. Karadzic. "Those which can't be withdrawn because of snow will be placed under full effective control of the U.N. without any

reservations, "Tomorrow at 2400 regardless of other deadlines, all heavy weapons will be under efficient control that is envisaged by U.N. regulations."

Mr. Akashi said that from Saturday armed troops of the. U.N. Protection Force (UN-PROFOR) will be controlling seven sites where heavy weapons will be grouped.
"Time is very short to make

tangihle and substannal progress, but I think we are on the way," be commented after meeting Mr. Karadzic, "We bave to see whether these (...) intentions will be translated into reality.

Others, including White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers, also maintained a cautious note on Friday, despite earlier comments by an UN-PROFOR spokesman that "very significant withdrawal of Serb forces" was under way. A senior U.N. officer in

named, said only 15 Serb military trucks were seen leaving a Serb-held barracks on Wednesday night and no convoys quit the region on Thursday ahead of Mr. Karadzic's

spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Pernod said Bosnian government and rebel Serb military commanders had agreed on three new control sites for grouping heavy weapons, two for Serh forces and one for the Muslimdominated Bosnian army.

However, the new sites accord had not yet been enforced and no new weapons had been handed in Friday, he

"It is a positive step hut the three-day deadline is still valid and both parties have to be convinced of that and respect' their undertakings. Otherwise there will be airstrikes,"

warned Mr. Pernod. Serbia's vow came after a Russian peace initiative earlier this week, during a visit to former Yugoslavia by Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin, a special emissary of presihian promise, Russia also said it would sent extra troops to Sarajevo to help monitor the. arms handover.

The United Nations said on Friday that more than 400 Russian troops had already begun to move from Croana towards Sarajevo.

Back in Moscow on Friday, Mr. Churkin said be was "certain" that the Bosnian Serbs would meet their promise which he claimed as a major Russian success.

"It is the Russian initiative which has allowed a relaxation of the (recent) crisis around Sarajevo," be said.

Stray "terrorist actions," a

Muslim advance or a possible NATO policy of trying to bomb and talk at the same time could still pose difficulties for a political settlement, he added.

During a visit to Athens, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said countries including Britain, France, Germany and the United States had been informed of an "initiative by President Boris Yeltsin" to hold a peace conference next week, but the place and level remained to be

committee meets in Washington

WASHINGTON (Agencies) The U.S. Jordanian-Israeli trilateral working group on economic cooperation met last week in Washington and decided to focus on areas where the U.S. could help in economic projects.

The U.S. State Department issued a statement late Wednesday on the meeting. It

The third meeting of the U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli trilateral economic committee was held in Washington on Feb. I6-17, 1994.

The group met in plenary, and continued its work in two sub-groups; one on trade, banking and finance, and one on economic cooperation and development.

Among the results of this trilateral:

- The participants agreed that this forum should complement the peace process by focussing on areas where the U.S. can be the catalyst for meaningful agreement and ac-

- Jordan and Israel will follow up as soon as possible on outstanding issues related to interim banking agreements for the West Bank and Gaza.

- There was certain progress in discussion of cooperative development of the Jordan Rift Valley and the Eilat-Agaba area, including the establishment of a mechanism for future identification and planning of projects. - Reciprocal trade arrange-

ments were discussed in detail. The issues expected to be discussed at the talks includes a draft pact regulating the reopening of two Jordanian bank branches, closed in the occupied Gaza Strip since the

1967 Middle East war. "We bope to be able to reach a memorandum of understanding on reopening our banks in Gaza," one official told Reuters in Amman

"We are also going to discuss the flow of trade between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas and ideas for the development of the Jordan Valley in the post-peace

(agreement) era. The economic talks were agreed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres last September. They are separate from the

> Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon that began in November 1991. At their last meeting in December, the sides signed an agreement on reopening over 20 Jordanian bank branches that bad operated in the West

neace talks between Israel, the

Bank before Israel occupied it in 1967. A separate accord is needed for the two bank branches in the Gaza Strip because they operated under different rules since the area was administered by Egypt until Israel

seized it in 1967. The Gaza branches belonged to the Arab Bank and Arab Land Bank, which also have branches in the West

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) gave its blessing to reopening the branches last month when it signed an accord on links with Amman during the three-year period of Palestinian self-rule before the final status of the occupied territories is re-

A joint Jordan-PLO com-

mittee is to be named to coordinate financial policy in the occupied territories and supervise banking.

Lawyer says colleague in New York bombing trial undermined his client

NEW YORK (AFP) - A defence lawyer accused the lawyer of another World Trade Centre bombing suspect Thursday of doing more damage to bis client's case than the prosecution,

Austin Campriello called for a mistrial, saying Robert Precht's closing arguments Wednesday in Mobammad Salameb's defence implicated his own client, Ahmad Ajaj.

Mr. Precht said 26-year-old Salameh became involved in the bombing after being led astray by fugitive Ramzi Yousef who masterminded the

It was the first time a defence lawyer for any of the four had admitted that their client was connected to the hlast which killed six and injured more than 1,000 last February.

Mr. Yousef was also accused of batching the plot by prosecutor Henry Depippo, who pointed out that bomb-making manuals were found in his lug-

Mr. Ajaj entered the country on the same flight as Mr. Yousef and was thus linked to the bombing, according to Mr.

In my view, Mr. Precht did more damage to Mr. Ajaj in

the first six minutes of his summation than Mr. Depippo did in the six bours of bis summation," said Mr. Cam-

His request for a mistrial was

Meanwhile, another defence attorney suggested in his closing argument that the bombing could be linked to the Gulf war, noting that Mr. Yousef and another fugitive, Abdul Yasin, had both fled to Iraq after the hlast.

The United States has put out a \$2 million reward for the return of Mr. Yasin and Mr. Yousef.

The prosecution wrapped up its case Tuesday, saying the motive for the attack was as clear as the evidence against four on trial.

"They did it to send a terrorist message and they told you wbat that message was," said assistant U.S. Attorney Henry Depippo, referring to a letter sent to the New York Times blaming U.S. aid to Israel for Mr. Depippo said defendant

sent the letter and also identified him as the man who left a message on a New York Daily News answering machine saying the "Liberation Army Fifth Battlion" claimed responsibility for the Feb. 26, 1993 bombing.

Mr. Salameh, Mr. Ajaj and the other defendants, Nidal

Ayyad and Mahmoud Abu Halima, have pleaded not guilty to charges they planted a bomb in the twin towers in Manhattan. If convicted, the four could be sentenced to life in prison.

In closing argument lawyer Prech appeared to admit that there was a bombing plot and that his client was involved in it - hut as an unwitting dupe.

The lawyer argued that his client was manoeuvred by an "evil genius" who is a fugitive in the bombing case.

"In fact, Mobammad Salameh was terribley misled, terribly manipulated... by a person who came into this country with a single mission, to destroy American targets," Mr. Precht said.

Gamaa claims attack on Nile ship

CAIRO (Agencies) - An underground Islamic group on Friday said its militants opened fire on a Nile cruise ship taking foreign tourists through the troubled southern Egyptian province of Assiyut.

The Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah told AFP in a statement that the attack on Wednesday was its "seventh and last operation to avenge the seven" militants killed in Cairo earlier this

month. The Interior Ministry said here late Thursday that the shots were not aimed at the tourists and that peasants "fired shots into the air to protect their crops as is usual"

in the region. The incident occurred near Manfalut, 350 kilometres south of Cairo.

Security forces based in Om

Al Oussur immediately returned fire, the ministry said. The crew of the ship said that the sbots shattered the windows of a cabin, hut burt neither the crew nor any of the 17 tourists of different nationalities who were sailing from Aswan to Cairo. Militants bave carried out

about 10 attacks against tourist boats in Assiyut province since October 1992 without causing any casualties. The Gamaa urged tourists

and foreign investors to leave

the country after the Cairo police raid that killed seven militants on Feb. 1. On Wednesday the Romanian Foreign Ministry said 20 Romanians working at a ce-

ment factory would move from the Assiyut region to the northern city of Alexandria, following a gun attack on their bus near Assiyut on Monday. The engineers were unhurt,

but the next day they received threats from the Gamaa saying the shooting was only a warn-

Almost 300 people have died since the fundamentalists began their violent antigovernment eampaign two years ago, and the moneybeen brought to its knees. Court sources meanwhile

confirmed that three soldiers finked to Islamic militants have been condemned to death and three others sentenced to hard labour for plotting to assassinate President Hosni Mnbarak. The sources said the six sol-

diers had planted explosives at

the airport in Sidi Barrani in

December and planned to de-

tonate the bombs during a visit

by Mr. Mubarak Sid Barrani's military court passed the death sentence against a second lieutenant in the reserves, Midhat Tahawi, and two conscripts, Hamada Mohammad Lotfi and Mohammad Ahmad Said Saleh on

Wednesday.

One of the conscripts was among the seven Islamic militants killed in a police raid on the Cairo district of Zawya Al Hamra in early February, according to an informed source. The other two appeared in court.

Trilateral

Balladur orders ministers to obey highway code

PARIS (AFP) - Fren Prime Minister Edouard Ball to obey the highway code stop using sirens and flash dur has ordered his minist lights in official motorcate officials said. Mr. Balladurt ministers and officials to star people the "irritation" motorcades and use them on an arrive when "strictly necessity nece motorcades and use them on when "strictly necessary." In circular dated Jan. 3, Mr. But ladur also said motorcade "should respect the higher code." Mr. Balladur first code." Mr. Balladur first cofficial processions when it came to power in April is year. but their use has creed back. He ordered an end to the use of sirens and flashing light "even by ministers" and refer red to the "justified exasperation" of the population. tion" of the population.

Clinton sees red with conjunctivitie and

WASHINGTON (AFP) President Bill Clinton paints and Hi-himself as a poster-boy in dimen / Nanonal Health Care Thin west Sal. National Health Care Thins and Said day, saying a case of conjunctivitis had his swollen left eight in the pink. "I look like a girl who needs health care today and I do," Mr. Clinton said "Thank goodness I've got it." he joked to a group of olding Americans as he pitched his plan, which would guaranter access to health care to all US citizens. More than 30 million people in the United State have no health insurance, and Mr. Clinton has made the issue the domestic focus of his admit acknown. the domestic focus of his addir active or nistration. Spokeswoman Der nated 121 Dee Myers said Mr. Clinton; keme Salcondition, commonly known at dance; pinkeye, was being treated them prise with antibiotic drops.

Mandela, Gullit star in Dutch fund raising show

HILVERSUM. Netherland Saments (AP) - Dutch foothall herd gibe the Rund Guilit gave ANC leader White put Nelson Mandela his European wat an Footbailer of the Year trophy tenan c Thursday night as a mark of the tenan esteem before a-nationwiki med in Dutch audience. Mr. Mandela, mbanned 75. was in the Netherlands to memen: attend a televised fund-raise a whence aimed at raising voter awartness in the upcoming South African elections, the firs letaine the nation's history. Dreat locked Gullit. who is part Sur- 10 ND (1) namese, has been a vocal sur hom wh porter of the anti-racism lobby wine hi in the Netherlands. When he was named Europe's Footbal Small and ler of the Year in 1987 Gully Multi. dedicated the prize to Ma skerman Mandela, who at the time was the 15 m. still behind bars in South Afri & Wedn still behind bars in South road at wedners. In presenting his trophy to months of Mr. Mandela, Gullit, a former stand group captain of the Dutch national land for Science is all the Science in Science is all the Science is soccer side, said: "This is as emotional occasion for me am very happy to finally have this chance." Mr. Mandels who appeared moved by the who appeared moved by the gesture. saluted a cheering television studio crowd with the trophy like a victor. captain. During the two-hold and tall large relethon Mr. Mandela was fixed quently pictured smiling as Dutch entertainers appeared on behalf of the get-out-the vote effort in South Africal the country of the country black townships. The breek cast was expected to raise over labul ar

Japanese losing confidence in their country :

a million dollars.

Uneasy

ighting.

TOKYO (AFP) — File Med and Japanese are losing confident library in their country's future with the country with the count sheading in the right dies tion. a government sure showed. This compares will showed. This compares will show the survey. Cited hy the liji Pres Agency. Women in their well aged between 20 and 30 are feel aged between 20 and 30 are feel. ties are the happiest with the same the aged between 20 and 30 are a most dissatisfied. with the general morosity blands the country's economic the country's economic culties. Nevertheless 51.9 are satisfied, compared with 53.5 per cent when the survey was taken in the survey was taken in the survey was taken in the survey was carried out the percent of the survey was carried out the survey was survey was carried out the survey was car June last year among 530 people aged 15 to 74 and dre responses from 4,172.

Egyptian ambassador says U.S. role vital to peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) -The United States and Egypt are playing a vital role in the effort to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East, Egypt's ambassador to the United States, Ahmad Maher Al Sayed, said Thursday.

A comprehensive peace "will allow us to start a new era of cooperation in the Middle East in order to better use the resources and bring prosperity for all the peoples of the area, the amhassador said in a speech to the Women's National Democratic Club (WNDC) in Washington.

To this end, "the cooperation of the United States and Egypt is vital... We will continue to cooperate. This is the

desire of our leaders, this is the desire of our people and this is what U.S. and Egyptian diplomacy is working for," he

Noting that negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Syria, Lebanon and Jordan have taken place and continue to take place in Washington and Cairo, the ambassador said that "the role of Egypt and the United States in concert has been extremely important in bringing the parties together...'

He praised the Clinton administration for expanding the U.S. role in the peace process "from the role of a friend of the parties to the role of full partner.'

Mr. Sayed rejected the notion that the U.S. role in the peace process has been marginalised because the Israel-PLO accord was negotiated in Oslo without U.S. participation. "I beg to disagree with this no-

tion," he said. The negotiations between Israel and the PLO were " a result of American efforts" in bringing the parties together for direct negotiations in the Madrid conference process, the ambassador said.

"When the parties came to agreement, they did not sign it in Oslo, they did not sign it in Paris or London. They decided to come to the United States and sign here on the White House lawn to reaffirm their belief in the necessity of an a questioner.

Egypt's peace agreement with Israel also played an important part in bringing about direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs, Mr. Sayed said. "This certainly would not have happened without the example of Egypt and the example of President Sadat," who proved that "you can establish peace with Israel.'

Although the Camp David peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is seen as a "cold peace" by some observers, the ambassador rejected that characterisation.

"There is no cold peace or warm peace. There is peace or no peace. And what we bave

with Israel has been peace," be American role," he reminded underscored.

Conceding that movement in areas such as cultural and scientific exchanges hetween Egypt and Israel has been slow to develop, the amhassador said he expects these and other exchanges will "warm up as we near a comprehensive settlement" in the Middle East peace process.

The ambassador argued that a "dynamic for peace" is developing in the region that is changing Israeli and Arah attitudes toward each other.

"What we want to do and what we are doing is trying to replace the perspective of war by the perspective of peace. And I think we have succeeded a lot," he said.